



The Symbolism of the Candy Cane*

Hard Candy

Reminds us of Jesus our Rock

“He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.” (Psalm 61:2)

Cane

Reminds us of a shepherd’s staff

“I am the good shepherd.” (John 10:11)

The Letter “J”

Reminds us of the name of our Savior Jesus

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Peppermint Flavor

Reminds us of the gift of spices from the wise men

“ . . . They opened their gifts and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

White Candy

Reminds us of purity and holiness

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.” (1 Peter 1:15)

The Color Red

Reminds us that Jesus became flesh and blood and spilled his blood to save us

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14)

The Stripes

Reminds us of Jesus’ suffering for our sake

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds (“stripes” in King James Version) you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:24-25)

*Though the candy cane was not designed with intentional Christian symbolism (other than its shape like a shepherd’s staff), it can be a useful teaching tool. This handout can be found at www.celebratingholidays.com.

