

Activity: **Candy Cane Challenge**
Discussion: **I share Jesus with my friends**
Scripture : **Luke 2:8-20**

YOU WILL NEED: Enough candy canes for everyone in your group.

Candy Cane Challenge

SAY: Get your Bibles ready for a Bible Drill.

Ask the students—**Who knows an easy way to find the Gospels?** (Turn to the middle of the Bible—You'll probably find Psalms. Then turn halfway through the section to your right. You'll usually end up in the Gospels.)

Ask the students—**What four books make up the Gospels?** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.)

Ready...Luke 2:8...Go!

Read Luke 2:8-20 from your Bible. To help keep the kids focused on what you are reading, tell them that every time you say the word "shepherd," they are to say, "Tell me more!"

Ask the students—**Who told the shepherds about Jesus?**

SAY: God used angels to deliver his message about Jesus birth, but God doesn't use angels to preach the Gospel. He uses you and me.

Ask the students—**Who told you about Jesus?**

Ask the students—**Have you ever told someone about Jesus?**

SAY: I'm going to show you a way you can tell others about Jesus.

Ask the students— Think about the shepherds. **What did they carry?** (A staff, which would have looked a lot like this candy cane.)

Show the students a candy cane but don't distribute them yet.

SAY: The staff would have been about as tall as the door and would've curved at the end just like this candy cane.

Ask the students—**Why do you think they curved?** (So a shepherd could reach out with it and pull a sheep back from danger or to pull him back on the right path.)

Ask the students—**When I turn the candy cane upside down, what letter do I have?**
(The letter “J”)

SAY: Here’s how you can use a candy cane to tell others about Jesus. Upside down it spells a “J.” The “J” would stand for Jesus.

Ask the students—**What do you think the red strip would stand for?** (The blood Jesus bled when He died on the cross to die for the wrong things we’ve done.)

Ask the students—**What do you think the white strip would stand for?** (That if you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, He’ll take them away and make you clean again.)

Practice it again:

What does the “J” stand for?
What does the red stripe stand for?
What does the white stand for?

SAY: Before you leave class today, I’m going to give you three candy canes. One for you and two to take to school and to give to friends. But when you give them to your friends be sure to tell them what it stands for and by doing so, you’ll be telling your friends about Jesus.

GREAT IDEA: Here’s another way you can use this idea. If your class at school is having a Christmas Show-and-Tell or if your teacher will let you, get enough candy canes for each student in your class. Then tell them all what the candy cane can stand for and how much Jesus loves them.

[NOTE: According to law a student has the right to talk about Jesus at school, even in front of the class as a part of a project, assignment, show-and-tell, or class function (such as a “Winter” party). Students also have the right, with the teacher’s permission, to distribute items such as flyers, candy, etc. as long as it does not interrupt the class and there are enough for each student to have one.]

SAY: Next week I’m going to ask you how you used your candy canes to share about Jesus. So have fun with it.