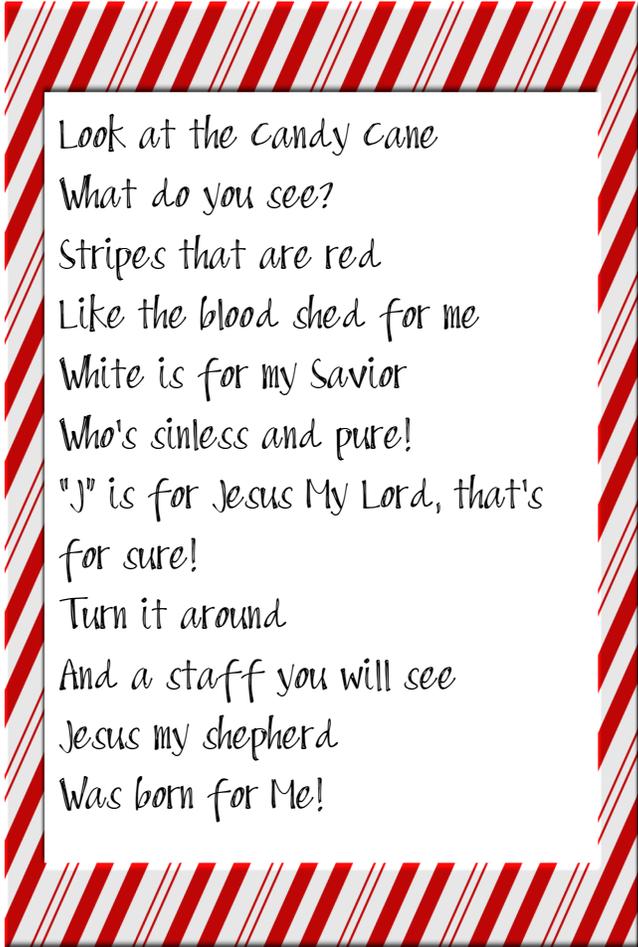
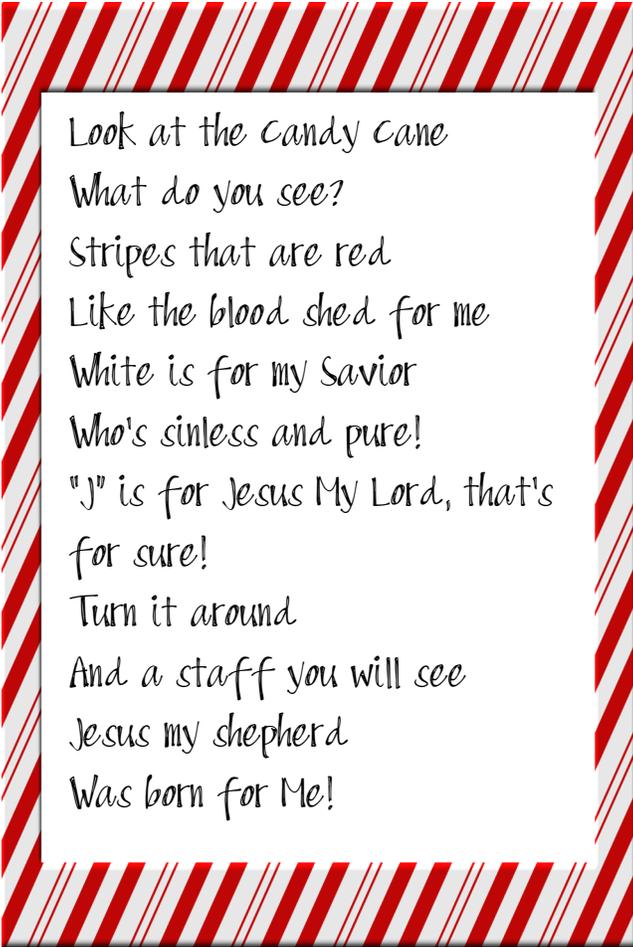


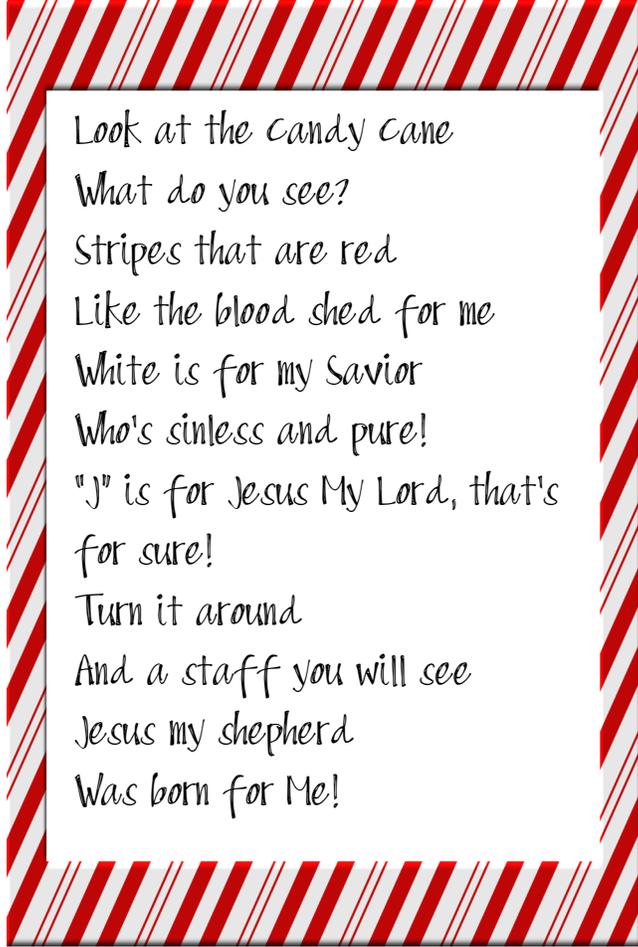
Look at the Candy Cane  
What do you see?  
Stripes that are red  
Like the blood shed for me  
White is for my Savior  
Who's sinless and pure!  
"J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's  
for sure!  
Turn it around  
And a staff you will see  
Jesus my shepherd  
Was born for Me!



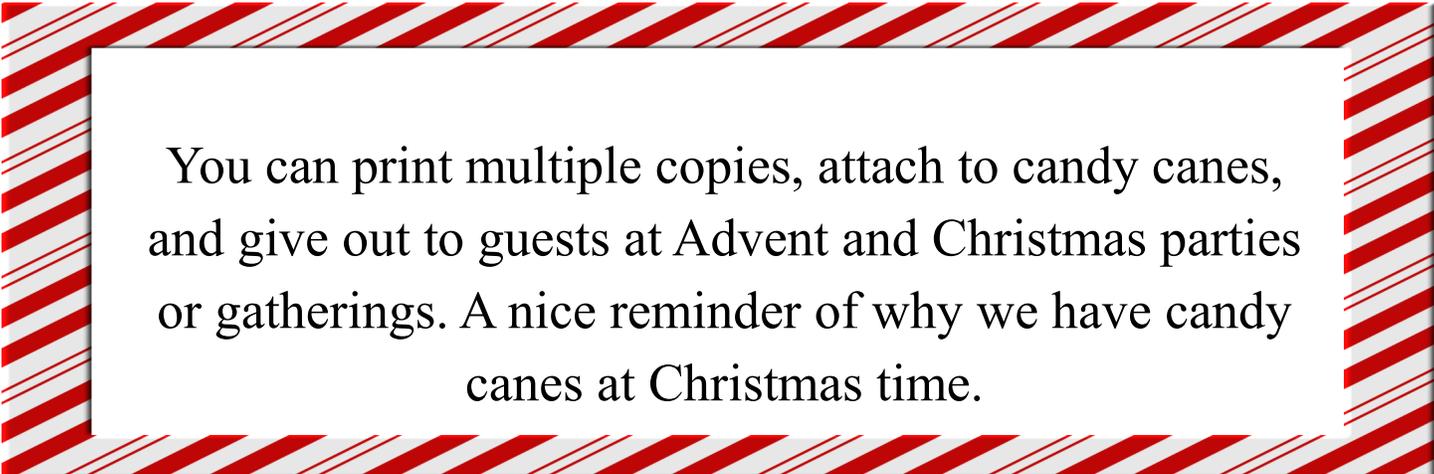
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You can print multiple copies, attach to candy canes, and give out to guests at Advent and Christmas parties or gatherings. A nice reminder of why we have candy canes at Christmas time.

## The Legend of The Candy Cane

*According to the legend of the candy cane, this candy was first created back in the 18th century. At that time, in certain areas of Europe, there was said to be a ban on public displays of Christianity. Christians were oppressed and no Bibles or crosses could be owned at the time. One man found this oppression distressing and wished he could share the love of Jesus and the joy of Christmas with the rest of the world. When Christmas came around, children didn't get to see nativity scenes or enjoy learning about the truth of Christmas. As a candy maker, this man prayed to find a way that he could offer local children a Christmas gift that would allow him to communicate the real story of Christmas.*

### His prayer led to an idea--The Candy Cane.

- **The Shepherd's Staff:** He chose to make the candy cane in the shape of a shepherd's staff. After all, Jesus is the shepherd to his followers and the Bible notes that the "sheep" would hear His voice and follow him (*Psalm 23:1, John 10:11, John 10:27-30, Isaiah 40:11*).
- **The Letter J for Jesus:** Not only was the candy cane in the shape of a staff, but when held upside down, it formed a "J," which stood for Jesus (*Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21*).
- **He is A Rock:** The candy maker chose hard candy for the candy cane, which was done to remind children that Jesus was our "rock," dependable and strong (*Psalm 31:3*).
- **By His Stripes:** Wide red stripes were added to the candy cane, representative of the crucifixion and the blood Jesus shed for our sins.
- **Red-His Shed Blood:** Through his blood, we are given salvation and life (*Revelation 1:5, John 3:16, Luke 22:20*).
- **White-Purification from Sin:** There are also white stripes on the candy cane, which represents the holiness, and purity of Jesus, who was sinless (*1 John 1:7*).
- **Sweet Fragrance of Christ:** Peppermint was the flavor that the candy maker chose for the candy cane. Peppermint was very similar to hyssop, which was used for sacrifice and purification in the Old Testament, reminding us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. It also reminds us of the spices brought by the Wise Men when they came to visit Jesus (*Psalm 51:7, John 10:29, Matthew 2:11*).
- **Broken For Us:** Of course, when the candy cane is eaten, it is often broken, which the candy maker meant as a reminder that when Jesus was crucified, his body was broken (*1 Cor. 11:24*).
- **Love of Christ:** The candy cane was also made to be given as a gift, representing the love of Jesus when he gave us the gift of salvation.

Although no one is quite sure if the legend of the candy cane is really true, **the beauty of the legend is such a reminder of God's love for us around Christmas.**