

# The Candy Cane

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** The true meaning of Christmas

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:24

**Memory Verse:** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." - 1 Peter 2:24

## The Children's Sermon

The candy cane is mostly white. White is a symbol of purity. That should remind us that Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God and that because he came to be the sacrifice for our sin, we can become as white as snow.

As you know, the candy cane has three red stripes. The Bible tells us that before he was crucified, Jesus was beaten with a whip which made blood-red stripes across his back. The Bible says that we are healed by those stripes. The stripes on the candy cane should remind us that Jesus suffered and died, so that we can have everlasting life.

To many people, the candy cane is a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time or just a piece of candy to be eaten and enjoyed. I hope that this year, every time you see a candy cane, you will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

Now, let's dive a little deeper into the Christmas Candy Cane Symbolism. Did you know that if you turn a candy cane upside down, it looks like a "J"? That "J" stands for Jesus,

who was born on Christmas Day. He's the reason we celebrate Christmas, and the candy cane helps us remember that.

Another cool thing about the candy cane is how it's made. When candy canes are made, they start out as a big, warm, soft piece of candy. Then, they are twisted and bent to make that famous candy cane shape. This process reminds us of how life can sometimes twist and bend us, but with Jesus, we can still come out looking beautiful and sweet, just like a candy cane.

Also, have you ever noticed how the candy cane is hard? This hardness reminds us that Jesus is our rock. He is strong and dependable. When we have troubles or are scared, we can lean on Him, and He will keep us safe, just like a solid rock.

Let's not forget the sweet taste of the candy cane. It's a reminder of how sweet life can be when we know and follow Jesus. He brings joy and sweetness into our lives, even when things seem tough.

Christmas Candy Cane Symbolism is all around us, telling a story of hope, love, and joy. Every time we see a candy cane, let's think about Jesus and the great love He has for us. Let's share that love with others, especially during Christmas time.

Now, imagine if we shared the story of the Christmas Candy Cane Symbolism with our friends and family. We could tell them how the candy cane is not just a candy, but a reminder of Jesus and His love for us. We could share the sweetness of Jesus's love just like we share candy canes.

In the end, the Christmas Candy Cane Symbolism is a beautiful reminder of what Christmas is really about. It's not just about getting gifts or having the best Christmas tree. It's about celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Savior, and spreading His love to everyone we meet.

Lord, we thank you that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who keeps us from harm. We thank you that because of his suffering and death on the cross, we have life everlasting. Help us to remember that we find the true meaning of Christmas in him.

So, next time you hold a candy cane, remember the Christmas Candy Cane Symbolism. Remember Jesus, His love, and the reason we celebrate Christmas. Let's keep the true spirit of Christmas in our hearts, not just during the holiday season but all year round.

## Bible Memory Verse

**"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." - 1 Peter 2:24**

You Will Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers related to Christmas (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into strips before class.

-Write the memory verse on a poster board and display it in the classroom.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to sit in a circle and read the memory verse together. Discuss what it means to bear our sins and how Jesus' sacrifice allows us to live for righteousness.
2. Explain that they will be making a 'Healing Cross' craft to remember the verse. Each strip of paper will represent our sins and Jesus' healing power.
3. Have the children write sins that people might struggle with (like lying, being unkind, etc.) on some strips and words of healing and righteousness (like truth, kindness, etc.) on others. They can also decorate with markers, crayons, and stickers.
4. Show them how to glue the strips across each other to form a cross. As they add each 'sin' strip, encourage them to say a prayer asking for forgiveness and healing. When they add a 'righteousness' strip, they can thank Jesus for His healing and help to live right.
5. Once the crosses are complete, gather the children again and reflect on how Jesus' birth, which we celebrate at Christmas, was the beginning of this beautiful promise of healing and righteousness for us all.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large paper or cardboard cross
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper and tape
- Markers or crayons
- A Bible or a printed copy of 1 Peter 2:24
- Christmas decorations (optional)

Get Ready:

1. Place the large cross at the front of the room where all the children can see it.
2. Write 1 Peter 2:24 on a large piece of paper or whiteboard for all the children to read.
3. If using, decorate the area around the cross with Christmas decorations to create a festive atmosphere.

Do this:

1. Start by reading 1 Peter 2:24 together: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." Explain that Christmas is a time we celebrate Jesus coming to earth, and this verse helps us remember why Jesus came.
2. Give each child a sticky note or piece of paper and a marker or crayon. Ask them to think about something they are thankful for that Jesus has done for them (it can be a blessing, forgiveness, healing, etc.) and write or draw it on their note.
3. One by one, invite the children to come up and stick their note on the cross. As they do, remind them that Jesus' birth is a gift that leads to the ultimate gift of His sacrifice, which allows us to be healed and forgiven.
4. Once all the notes are on the cross, lead the children in a short prayer, thanking Jesus for coming to earth and for the gifts of His love and sacrifice. Encourage them to remember the true meaning of Christmas is not just about receiving gifts, but celebrating the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

## Snack Activity: Healing Hearts Christmas Cookies

You'll Need:

- Pre-made sugar cookie dough (or ingredients to make your own)
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Red and green icing
- Toothpicks

- Small edible gold stars

Get Ready: Preheat your oven according to the cookie dough package instructions. Roll out your dough on a flat, floured surface to about 1/4 inch thickness.

Do this:

1. Use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out cookies. These hearts remind us of our own hearts and how Jesus came to heal them through His sacrifice, just like 1 Peter 2:24 tells us. Place them on a baking sheet and bake according to the package instructions.
2. Once the cookies have cooled, use the red icing to draw a cross on each heart, symbolizing Jesus' sacrifice for us. The green icing can be used to add decorative borders or Christmas designs around the edges.
3. Place a small gold star on the top of each cookie. This star represents the light of Christ that shines in our hearts, especially during Christmas, reminding us of the true meaning of the season.

As you eat these cookies, remember how Jesus healed us and brought us closer to God, making Christmas a time of true joy and healing.

## Game Activity: Healing Hopscotch: Journey to Christmas

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A printed picture of a cross (optional)

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or any safe, flat surface. Instead of numbers, write the following in each square in order: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control, and at the end, a cross (or place the picture of a cross).

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that 1 Peter 2:24 teaches us that Jesus healed us by His wounds. This Christmas, we remember His greatest gift: healing and the chance to be good and kind like Him.
2. The children take turns tossing the stone or beanbag onto the hopscotch grid. Before they hop, they say a simple prayer related to the fruit of the Spirit where the stone lands (e.g., "Help me to be kind, Jesus."). If they reach the cross, they say a thank you prayer to Jesus for His gift of Christmas.
3. After each round, discuss how each fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.) can help us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by being more like Jesus.

## Craft Activity: Healing Hearts Christmas Ornament

You'll Need:

- Red and white construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ribbon or yarn
- Markers
- A Bible or printed verse of 1 Peter 2:24

Get Ready: Cut the red construction paper into heart shapes, about the size of your palm. Cut the white paper into strips that can be glued across the hearts.

Do this:

1. Start by reading 1 Peter 2:24 together: 'He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.' Discuss how Jesus' love and sacrifice is the true meaning of Christmas.
2. Take a red heart and a white strip. Explain that the red heart represents us and our hearts, and the white strip represents Jesus' purity and healing. Glue the white strip across the heart.
3. On the white strip, write a part of the verse, 'By his wounds, we are healed,' or simply 'Healed by Love.' Punch a hole at the top of the heart, thread the ribbon through it, and tie a knot to create a loop for hanging.
4. Encourage the children to hang their Healing Hearts Ornament on their Christmas tree or give it to someone as a reminder of Jesus' love and the true meaning of Christmas.

## Prayer Activity: Healing Hearts Prayer Chain

You'll Need:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Stapler or tape

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into strips about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long. Each child will need about 5-10 strips, depending on how long you want the chain to be.



Do this:

1. Start by explaining 1 Peter 2:24, 'He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.' Simplify it by saying, 'Jesus loves us so much that He took away all the bad things we do by being hurt for us. Because of Him, we can choose to do good and be close to God. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus coming to earth to do this for us.'
2. Ask the children to think of ways they can show love and kindness during Christmas, like helping at home, sharing toys with friends, or saying kind words. For each idea, they write it on a strip of paper.
3. Show the children how to make a loop with one strip and secure it with a stapler or tape. Then, thread another strip through the first loop and secure it, creating a chain. Explain that each link in the chain represents a choice to do good, just like Jesus did for us. The chain can remind us of Jesus's love and how we can spread that love to others.
4. Once the chains are complete, gather the children in a circle and join the ends of their chains together to form one big chain. Lead them in a prayer, asking God to help them remember the true meaning of Christmas and to give them opportunities to show love and kindness, just like Jesus.