A True Meaning Of Christmas Sun Am 12/3/23 KZ Lesson

Target Thought: Jesus’ is our ever giving gift.

# Memory Verse: Psalm 23:1 NKJV

# 23 The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

The candy cane is a long-time Christmas tradition. Everywhere we look we see them. They are used as decorations on Christmas trees and, of course, they are one of the most popular of all Christmas treats. I have heard several stories about the history and meaning of the candy cane. I think that the candy cane can teach us a few things about the true meaning of Christmas. Just like so many other things that God has given us to remind us all of the time that He loves us and He will always be with us.

First of all, if you look at the candy cane like this (J) it looks like the letter J. Jesus starts with the letter J, so that should remind us of Jesus and help us to remember that Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

If you look at the candy cane like this ( ) it looks like a shepherd's crook. The shepherd used his crook to keep the sheep from wandering away from the flock and getting lost or eaten by a wild animal. The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd." Jesus is our sheherd because He always protects us, provides for us, He meets all of our needs. The candy cane should remind us that Jesus is our shepherd and he will keep us from wandering away and getting lost or hurt.

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 totally clean and blameless, and that Jesus has redeemed us back to the Father so that we can live with Jesus forever, now and in Heaven.

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, be healed and have the best life forever.

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. We know that every time we see a candy cane or even a peppermint candy that we will remember a true meaning of Christmas.

We know that God has always loved us and that He always will. We know that He has given us many things to remind us of His amazing love and that very soon we will get to live in Heaven with Father God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit forever. We can know and feel the love of God everyday, not just at Christmas, however the gift of being able to celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas is just one of the many many wonderful gifts that we have been given by God.

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 the true meaning of Christmas in Him.

1 Why is Jesus our Shepherd?

2 What does the color white in the candy cane remind us of?

3 What does the color red in the candy cane remind us of?

4 Do we know that God has always loved us and that He always will love us?

5 Is celebrating Christmas just one of the many wonderful gifts that God has given us?