

# Me and Mommy in the kitchen

*Make a yummy treat while teaching them about Jesus*

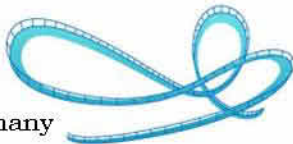


Look at the candy cane  
What do you see?  
Stripes that are red  
Like the blood shed for me  
White is for my Savior  
Who is sinless and pure  
"J" is for Jesus, my Lord, that's for sure  
Turn it around  
And a staff you will see  
Jesus my shepherd  
Was born for me

## The legend of the Candy Cane

There once was a candy maker who wanted to make a candy to represent Christ. He used a hard candy because He is the Rock of Ages and shaped it to represent a "J" for Jesus or turned upside down a shepherd staff who were the first to come to Jesus' birth. He made it white to represent the purity of Christ and red to represent the blood Christ shed for the sins of the world. The flavor is peppermint, similar to hyssop which was used in the Old Testament for purification and sacrifice. Jesus is the pure Lamb of God, come to be a sacrifice for the sins of this world.

## Staying on track



Thank God today for the many blessings He has given us. Teach your kids how to show God's love by bringing gifts or treats to others in need (Rescue Mission, rest home).

## Help your kids stay on track too!

Read Matthew 6:3-4. Give your children extra chores so they can earn money to give anonymously to someone in need.

First prepare a batch of sugar cookie dough according to the directions. Remove slightly more than half of the dough from the bowl and set aside. Add red food coloring and peppermint extract to the remaining dough and beat until evenly mixed and colored. For each candy cane, scoop 1 teaspoonful of the plain dough and 1 teaspoonful of red dough. Roll each dough portion between your hands to make a 4 inch rope. Twist the ropes around each other like a Barber Pole and shape into a cane shape. Arrange cookies on a lightly greased baking sheet about 1 inch apart. If dough becomes too soft, refrigerate for a few minutes until it firms up again, and only take out small amounts at a time to speed production. Bake at 350 degrees for about 8 minutes until firm to the touch. Do not let the cookies brown. Cool for a minute before using a wide spatula to transfer the cookies to wire racks to cool completely.

## Kids say the cutest things

Last night Madi & Logan were seated on the floor near where I was working on the computer. Logan was frustrated about something he was working on and I absently said, "its okay, sweetheart, don't worry about it" Madi exclaimed, "I'm the sweetheart! They're brothers!" Well, okay then, thanks for clarifying things, Madi

## Family Time

Have fun playing with your kids. Act out the story of Mary going to Bethlehem and finding no room in the inn. An adult can be the donkey giving Mary (one of the kids) a ride. When they knock on a door (kids' bedroom) someone opens it up and says "sorry there's no room".

If you have a baby, he/she can play the part of baby Jesus after he was born. You can also pretend that many months have gone by and Jesus is older now and the wise men are coming to see Jesus carrying gifts. This might even be more fun if you act it out with another family. Make it one of your star activities for the day (see Glenna's family tradition).

*At the end of the day have everybody pitch in to quickly clean up the house. That way you wake up to a fresh start each day. Pick one day in the week to do all your heavy cleaning that day.*

JEN'S CLEANING TIP

