## ORIGIN OF THE CANDY CANE

A long time ago, there was a very gifted candy maker who made the most wonderful candies. People came from all around to buy his candy. He liked to create special candies for important events like birthdays and anniversaries.

One December day, he had a wonderful idea. He would make a very special candy to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. It had to be different from all other candies and it had to remind people of Jesus.

"Let's see," he thought. On Christmas, God became one with us. The Christ Child became our Good Shepherd, looking after us. He offered His life for us, suffering and dying to save us from our sins."

With these thoughts in mind, he began to mix a large cauldron of hard candy, the best he had ever made. He made two batches, one white and one red. Then, he rolled out some of the white and some of the red. While it was still warm and soft, he wrapped them around each other.

The red stripe was to remind people that Jesus shed His blood to save us. The white stripe was to remind us of the great love that Jesus has for us.

Then, just before the candy got too hard, he shaped the candy into a shepherd's staff to remind us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who watches over us. Of course, if you turn the staff upside down, it looks like the letter "J," the first letter in His holy name.

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