

A Sweet Christmas

Please Note: This devotional is geared to use as an object lesson with candy pieces to tell the Christmas story. The candy name is listed, along with the parts of the Christmas story that it correlates with. Place all the items into a basket, remove the appropriate item, and give the application.

When you are finished with the devotional, you could give the basket of items away as a door prize. Or you could make up this basket with hangtags of the correlating verses on each item and give as a gift. Another idea would be to take the candies individually and make them up in cellophane and tied with ribbons with a tag with the correlating verse and use for favors or to place on top of packages.

The Items Needed are the Following:

- Rocky Road® Candy Bar
- Sugar Babies®
- Candy Cane
- Almond Joy® Candy Bar
- Dove Candy®
- Smarties®
- Starburst®
- Hershey's Treasures® or Gold Candy Coins
- Reison ®
- Basket in which to place the items

The devotional begins on the next page.

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Christmas is such a sweet time of year. It's sweet not just because our kitchens are full of the wonderful smells of baking and all the holiday candy that comes in tow, but it's sweet because our Lord is sweet. I love that old hymn, "*I Love To Tell The Story*". It says in the third verse, "*What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet*". Christmas is part of the whole story of Jesus and it ought to be sweet to our ears. Christ came so we could live and that's just so exciting.

Here are some sweet things to remind us of that wonderful sweet Christmas story.

1. Rocky Road® (Journey of Joseph and Mary)

It may not have been an actual "rocky road" but Mary was expecting and close to her time of delivering so the journey must have been difficult at the least. Some of us ladies don't take long trips when we are close to giving birth in a car or plane, let alone get on a donkey and go.

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child". Luke 2:4,5

2. Sugar Babies® (Reminder of Sweet Baby Jesus)

How exciting that God sent His only Son down from heaven in the form of a sweet little baby. A little child would change history and save us from our sin.

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

3. Candy Cane (Reminder of the Shepherds)

The candy cane reminds us of the staff of the shepherds and how they were busy taking care of their sheep while Jesus was being born. What a significant part in the Christmas story they played. I think it's a great lesson to us, that God uses us to play significant parts in weaving history even if we don't know it at the time.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid." Luke 2:8, 9

4. Almond Joy® (Reminder of the Angel's Announcement)

While the shepherds were watching their sheep there was a glorious proclamation of "joy".

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

5. Dove® Candy (Reminder of Peace)

The dove has always been a symbol of peace. Because Christ was born we can have peace. *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you..."* is what Christ said in John 14:27.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:12,14

6. Smarties® (Reminder of the Wise Men)

Even the wise men of Christ's day sought the Lord. The Bible doesn't tell us too much about the wise men, but we do know from the fact that Herod had the babies under 2 killed, that Matthew says of the wise men that *"they were come into the house"* when they found the baby in Mary's arms, and a few other things that the wise men probably actually came to Jesus when He was a little older and not to the stable where Christ was born.

I know a few Christians who will place their wise men from their nativity set far off like they are traveling and I know Christians who won't acknowledge that the wise men played a part in the Christmas story because the world emphasizes that the wise men were there at the manger on the actual day Christ was born. They get all hung up on that. Personally, I don't think we want to leave the wise men out of the story. They played a big part. The world does need to see that wise men did seek Jesus, even if they don't understand how the sequence all fell into place. The world doesn't understand the things of God anyway.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. Matthew 2:1,2

7. Starburt® (Reminder of the Star)

When we see the shape of the Christmas star at the holidays, I think sometimes we forget its importance. It was something God used to guide the wise men. Today he has ways of guiding us too. When the wise men saw the star, they “rejoiced”. I think when we see the shape of the Christmas star, it should be like a surge that goes through us and we should be reminded to rejoice as well.

”When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” Matthew 2:9, 10

8. Hersheys Treasures® or Foil Wrapped Coin Candy (The Gifts From the Wise Men)

When the wise men came they brought treasures with them to Jesus. I think this should always spur us on to give our own gifts to the Lord such as our time, talents, and other things we know we should be giving to Him.

”And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:11

9. Reison® (Jesus is the Reason for the Season)

Jesus came to earth that Christmas Day so that we could live with Him forever and that our lives on earth might be more meaningful. He is our “reason” for the wonderful holiday season.

”For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Scripture References are from the King James Version.
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