



Candy Canes and Shepherd's Crook

Isaiah 40:11

"Like a Shepherd He will tend His flock. In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom: He will gently lead the nursing ewes."

Legend reads that the Candy Cane's "J" shape is for Jesus and/or the Shepherd's crook and the red stripes represent His healing stripes. We do know in the 17th century Europeans used the hard candies to keep the children quiet during the candlelight service.

This evening as I'm looking at the candy canes reflect in my tree lights God is reminding me of the many uses of the Shepherd's crook, the shepherd around the manger and the way the Lord has been shepherding me through the dark shadow lands of grief.

Wikipedia describes the shepherd's crook as a .."primitive devices used to herd the sheep along unstable and mountainous terrain...used for balancing, examining dangerous undergrowth and defense against predators . However it describes it's main purpose as being to "catch and recover sheep." Sheep that have fallen onto dangerous precipices. How often do we as grieving moms find ourselves on the precipices of grief, hanging on for dear life and hoping that our Shepherd is hearing our cries!

Mom's know that He not only hears your cries but that He wants to carry you in his bosom/heart when you can't take the next step. And look who He's referring to in our verse today! The nursing ewes that's the mommy sheep, that's us