

The Symbols of Christmas Drive-thru

Today you can be like a Detective. Our Christmas decorations give you clues that help you know the true reason we celebrate Christmas.

Listen carefully, we will ask you questions at the end of your investigation for a chance to win prizes. When you hear the sleigh bells, (pause the video and drive to the next symbol. Are you ready to go? Here come the sleigh bells....



Star: *We Three Kings:* Do you like to look up at the stars and try to count them? They are endless, but the Bible says God calls them each by name! The Bible also tells of a time when God put a special star in the sky to help guide wise men, from far away, to his Son Jesus. God loves all people near and far. God loves you too. He wants to guide you to know His Son Jesus.



Manger: *Away in the Manger:* A manger is a feeding box where animals... like sheep, donkeys, and cows eat their hay. When Jesus left heaven and came to earth, he was wrapped in clothe and laid in a manger. The manger reminds us that Jesus came to earth as a baby to become the “Lamb of God.” The One who would take our punishment for the wrong we’ve done that the Bible calls sin.



Candy Cane: *The Lord is My Shepherd:* Mmmmmm, do you like candy canes? It’s shaped like a special stick shepherds use when they watch their sheep, it’s called a staff. The Bible says Jesus is the “Good Shepherd.” That means that just as a good shepherd watches and cares for his sheep, Jesus watches and cares for you and me. When we follow Jesus’ fair, loving, and right way, He will lead us to the best paths for our life and protect us. Will you let Jesus be your Good Shepherd? (Read John 10:11-18)



Candles and Lights: *Here I am to Worship:* Do you like to see the beautiful lights at Christmas? The lights are reminder to us that Jesus is the *Light of the World*. Light helps us see --or find our way in the dark. Jesus came to earth to help us find, know, and understand God’s fair, loving, and right way. Jesus said, I AM the light of the world, (John 8:12).



Holly: *Deck the Halls:* We put the holly by the cross for a special clue. The holly’s sharp leaves remind us of the crown of thorns they placed on Jesus’ head when He became a man and died upon the cross. The red berries remind us of the blood he gave for you and me when He died to take the punishment for our sins. The Bible says: ... *the blood of Jesus God’s Son cleanses us from all sin*, 1 John 1:7b.



Christmas Tree: *O Christmas Tree:* Did your family put up a Christmas tree? The Christmas tree points to Heaven to remind you and me to look to God each day. The tree reminds us of **LIFE** and how Jesus came to earth, died on a cross made from a tree, and came back to **LIFE**. This gives those who trust in God's way eternal life. That means when your life is over here on earth you will live with God in Heaven. The lights, star, and angels on the tree all help remind you and me of the true Christmas story...God's plan to guide us into a relationship with Him.



Wreath: *Jesus Loves Me Song:* We see wreaths at funerals, Christmas, and other occasions. The circle of the wreath can remind you and me that just as a circle has no end, God Himself has no beginning or end. God's love for you doesn't end either! The wreath is a symbol that Jesus won the battle over death when He came back alive from the dead on the third day and now lives in heaven. Because He won over death, we can win over death --and sin in our lives also. How? By trusting Jesus as our Savior from the punishment of the wrong we've done.



Bells: *Go Tell it on the Mountain:* Did you know the sleighs jingle bells are to alert people and wild animals of the sleighs arrival? Just like a train has a whistle! At Christmas we ring the bells to help announce the good news of Christ birth. The bells can remind you and me to go tell others the good news of Jesus. Who can you tell the true Christmas story too? You can use the decorations of Christmas to help others learn about God's gift of His Son.



Present: *Joy to the World:* Did you know that presents are also a clue about the first Christmas? The presents remind us of God's gift of His Son Jesus to you and me. The Bible tells us: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16 ESV). To believe in Him doesn't just mean you know about Him but you admit to God you are sorry for the things you've done wrong, you thank Him for dying on the cross to take the punishment for the wrong you have done, you believe He came back to life, and you want to follow His fair, loving, and right way. The Bible promises that if you believe in Jesus: You receive gifts from God that bring real joy that money can't buy! Three gifts you receive, after you trust in God's promise, are:

One, you are saved from the punishment of all the wrongs (sins) you will and have done.

Two, God's Holy Spirit joins your spirit to comfort and help guide you moment by moment AND you become a member of God's forever family!

Three, when your life here on earth is over, you have an eternal home in heaven with God the Father.

If today, anyone in your car (young or old) made or would like to make a decision, for the first time, to receive God's gift of eternal life through His Son Jesus, put a check mark on the card beside the gift box. Turn the card back into a helper at the gift table. Someone from the church will contact you to help you understand more about what it means to receive God's gift of eternal life.