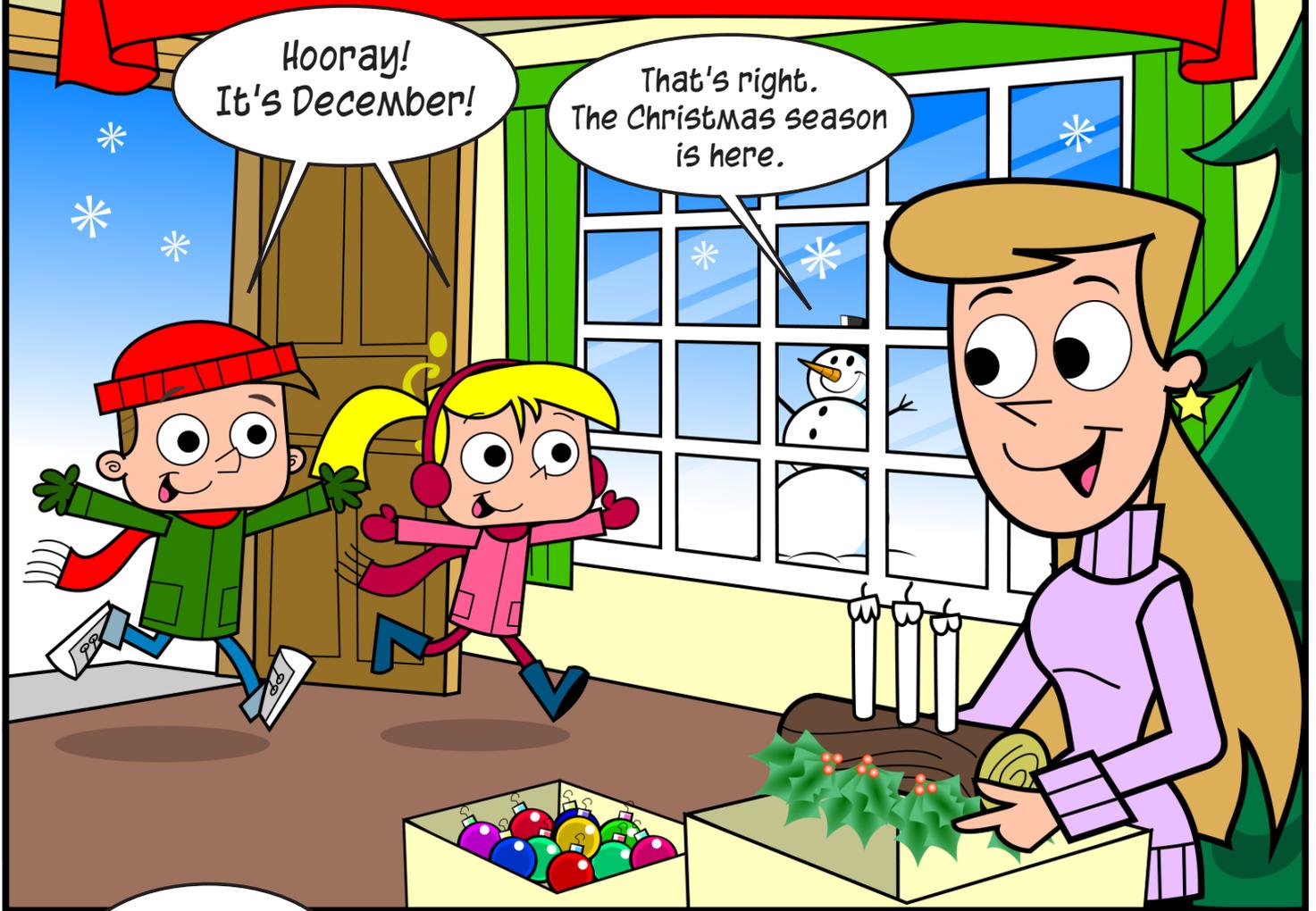


What Christmas Is All About

Hooray!
It's December!

That's right.
The Christmas season
is here.



Mom, what is
Christmas all
about?

And why do we
celebrate it?





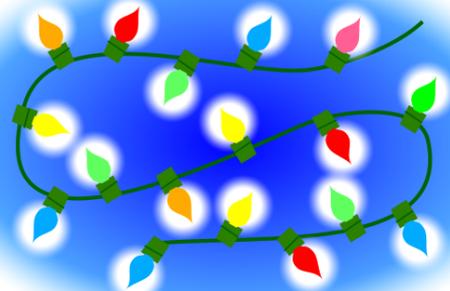
Is it about decorations, and making everything look pretty?



Is it the about the gifts that we give and receive?



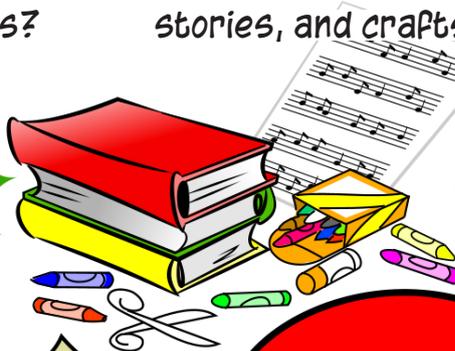
Or maybe the colored and twinkling lights?



Is it about the Christmas trees and wreaths?

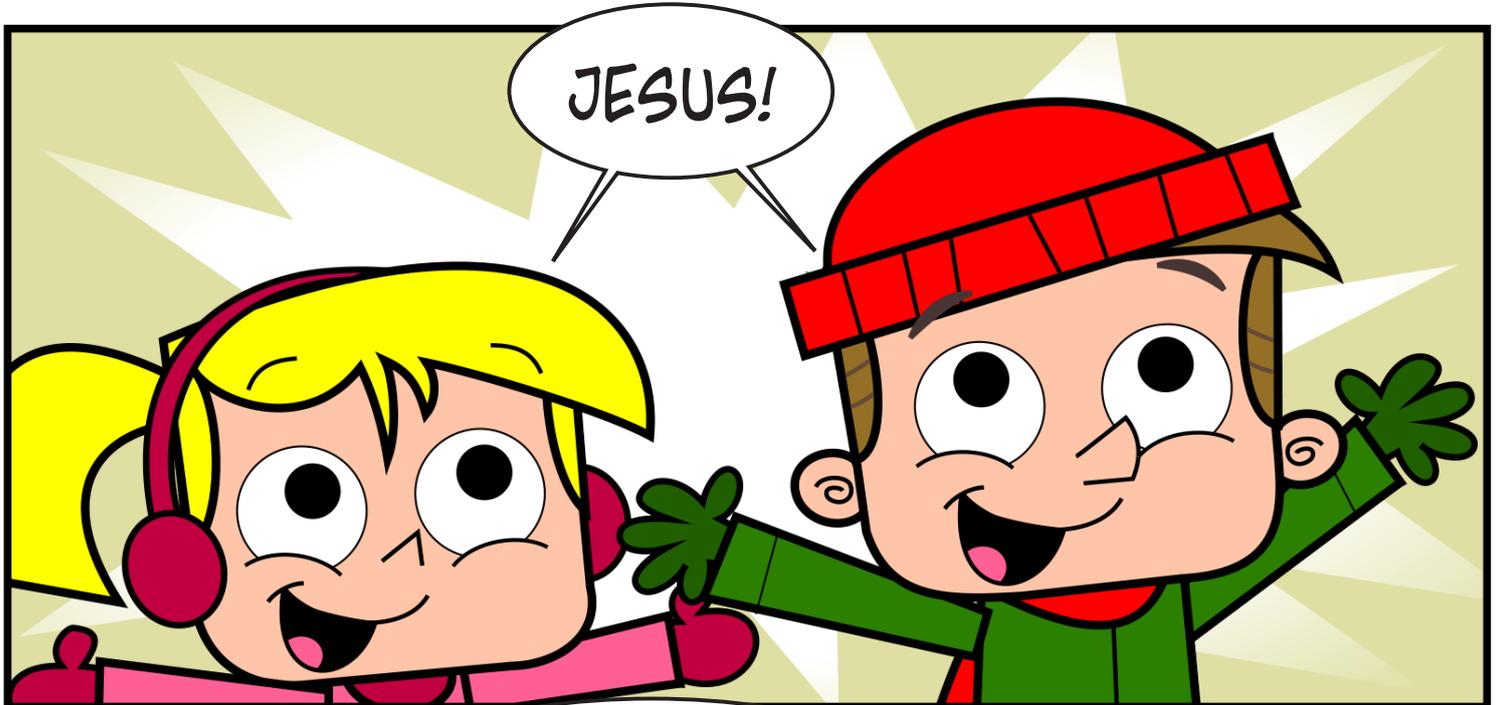
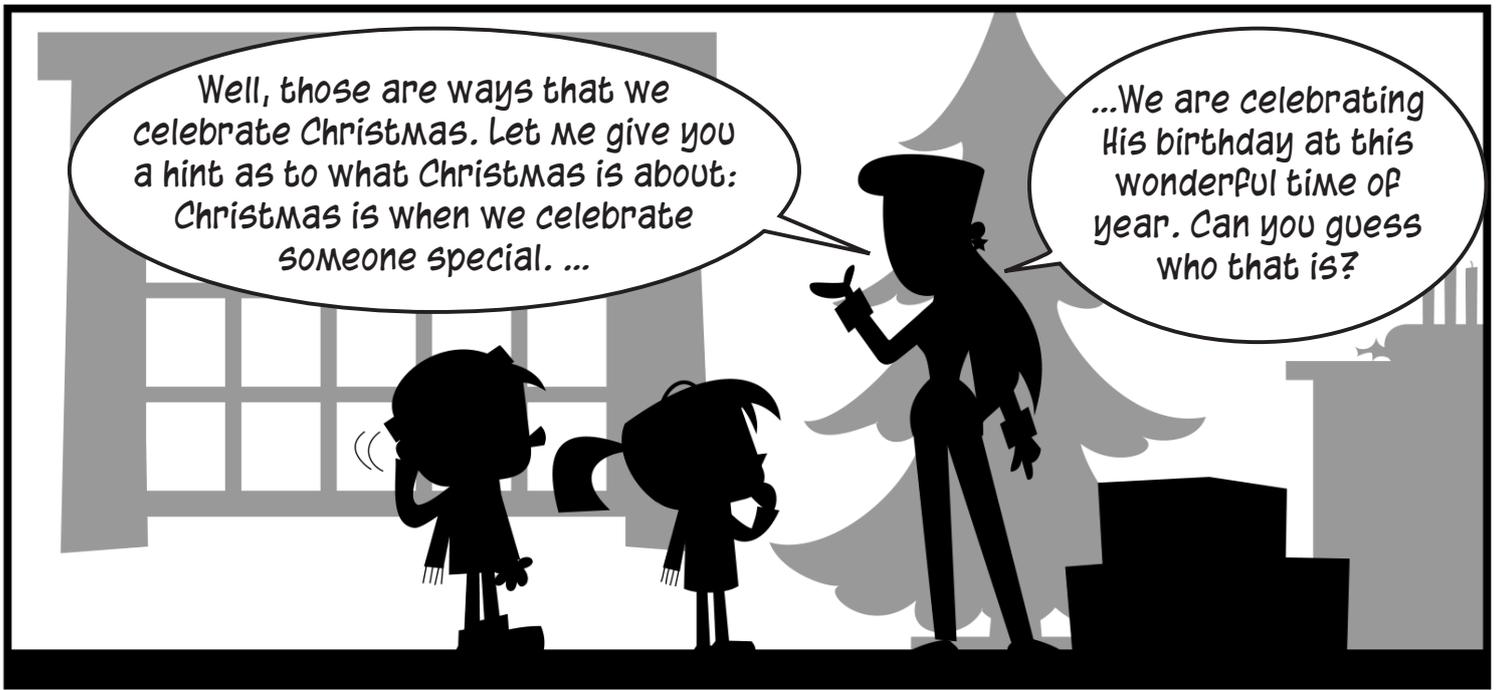


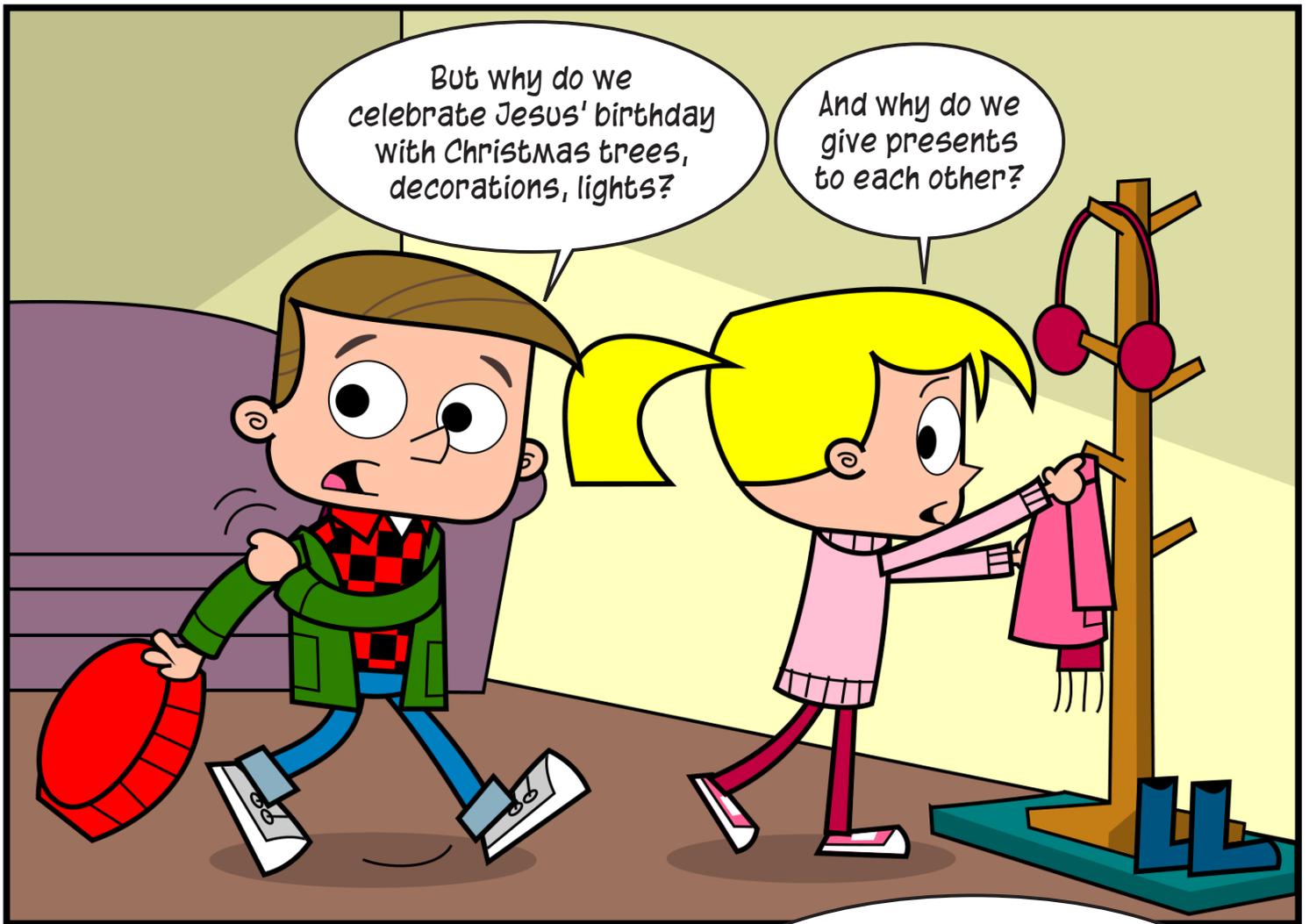
Or the Christmas carols, stories, and crafts?



Is it about the tasty treats and delicious food?







But why do we celebrate Jesus' birthday with Christmas trees, decorations, lights?

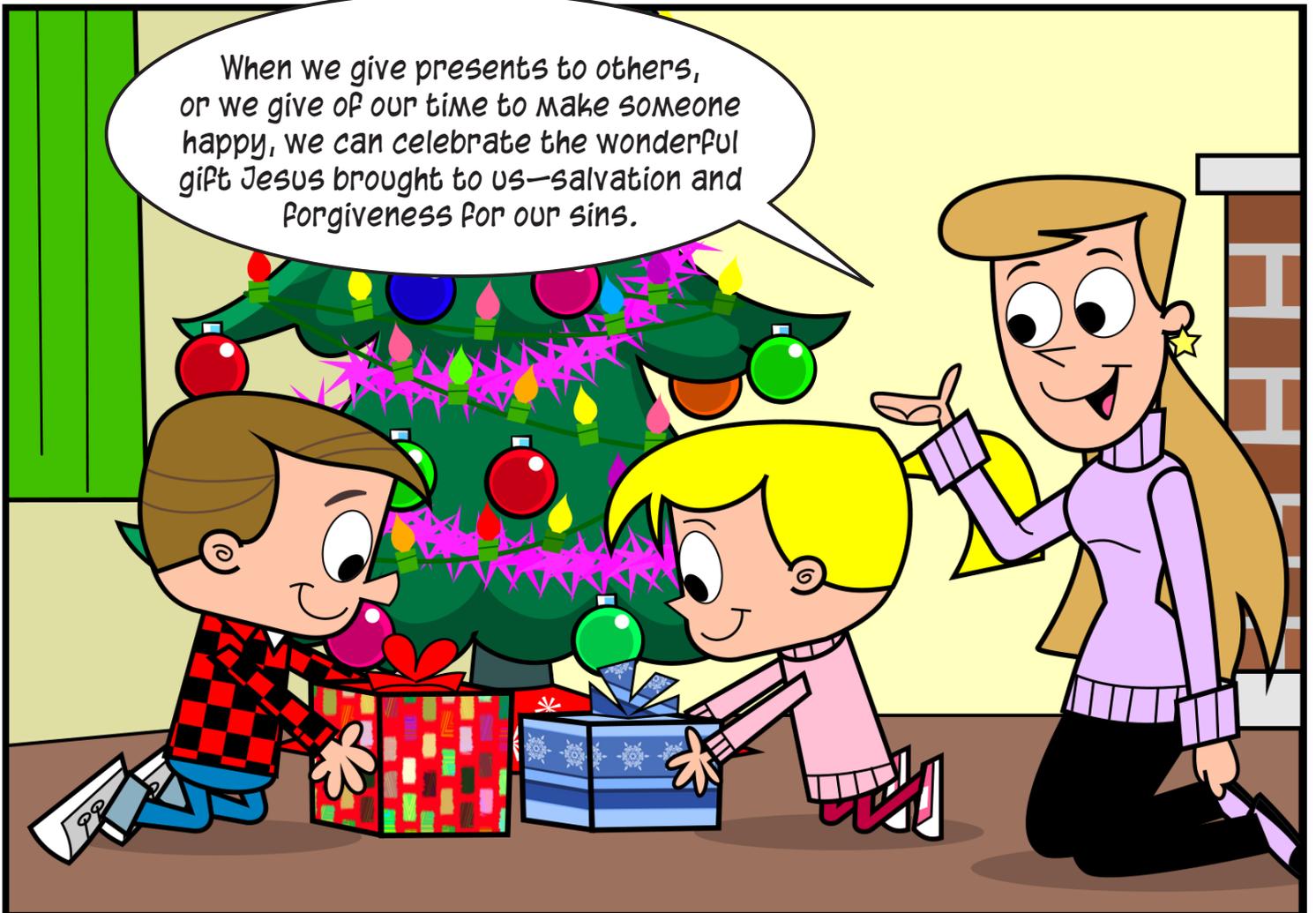
And why do we give presents to each other?



The ways we celebrate Christmas are ways that we can remember Jesus and show our happiness for Jesus' life on earth.



When we see the beautiful Christmas lights, we can remember that Jesus is the light of the world. He brings light and love into our lives and hearts.



When we give presents to others, or we give of our time to make someone happy, we can celebrate the wonderful gift Jesus brought to us—salvation and forgiveness for our sins.



Oh! And when we sing Christmas carols together, we are singing our happiness as we remember Jesus' birth.

Exactly!

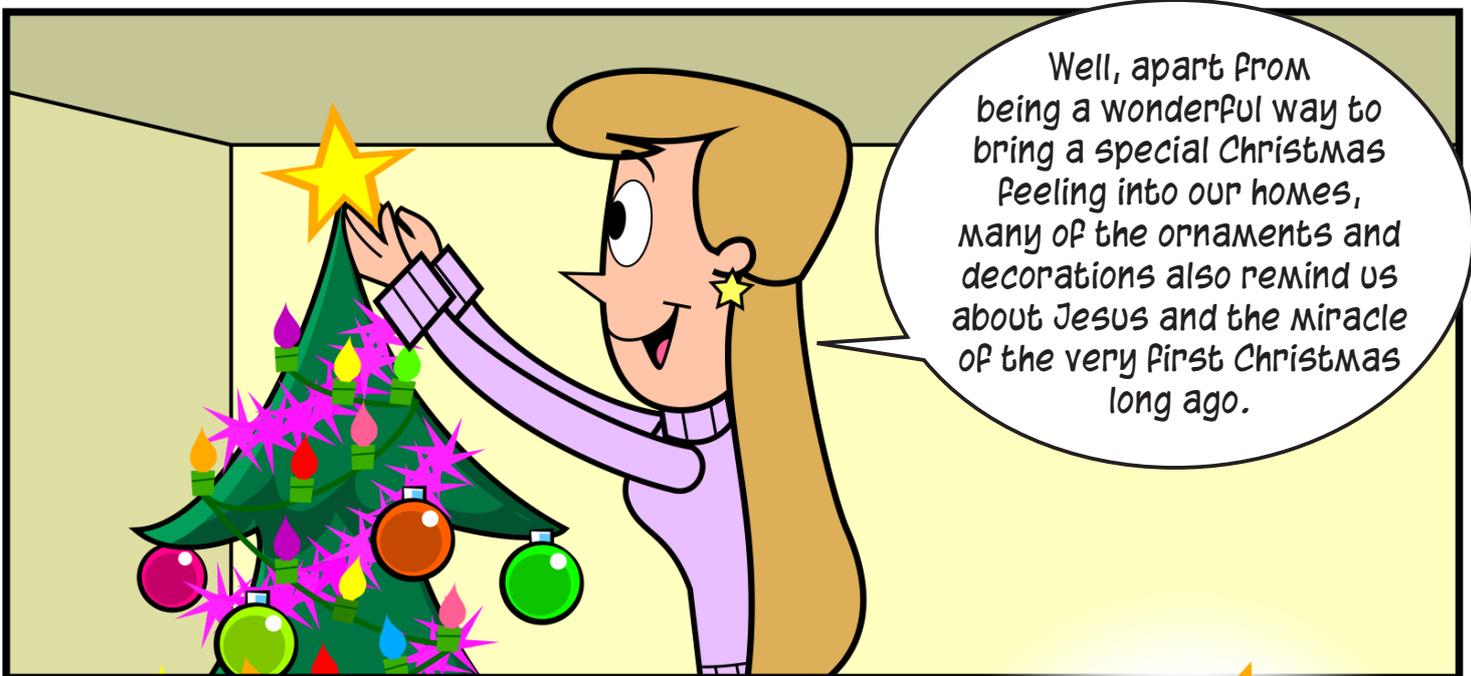


"Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven,
And nature sing."¹

¹ "Joy to the World"; lyrics by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) and music by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)



But what about the decorations and the Christmas tree? Why are they a part of Christmas?



Well, apart from being a wonderful way to bring a special Christmas feeling into our homes, many of the ornaments and decorations also remind us about Jesus and the miracle of the very first Christmas long ago.



The star at the top of the Christmas tree can remind us of the star that led the wise men to Jesus.

That's right.



In olden days, the city or church bells were rung in celebration when something wonderful had taken place. Jesus' birth was a marvelous event, and the bells remind us that we can tell others the good news about Jesus, God's gift of love.



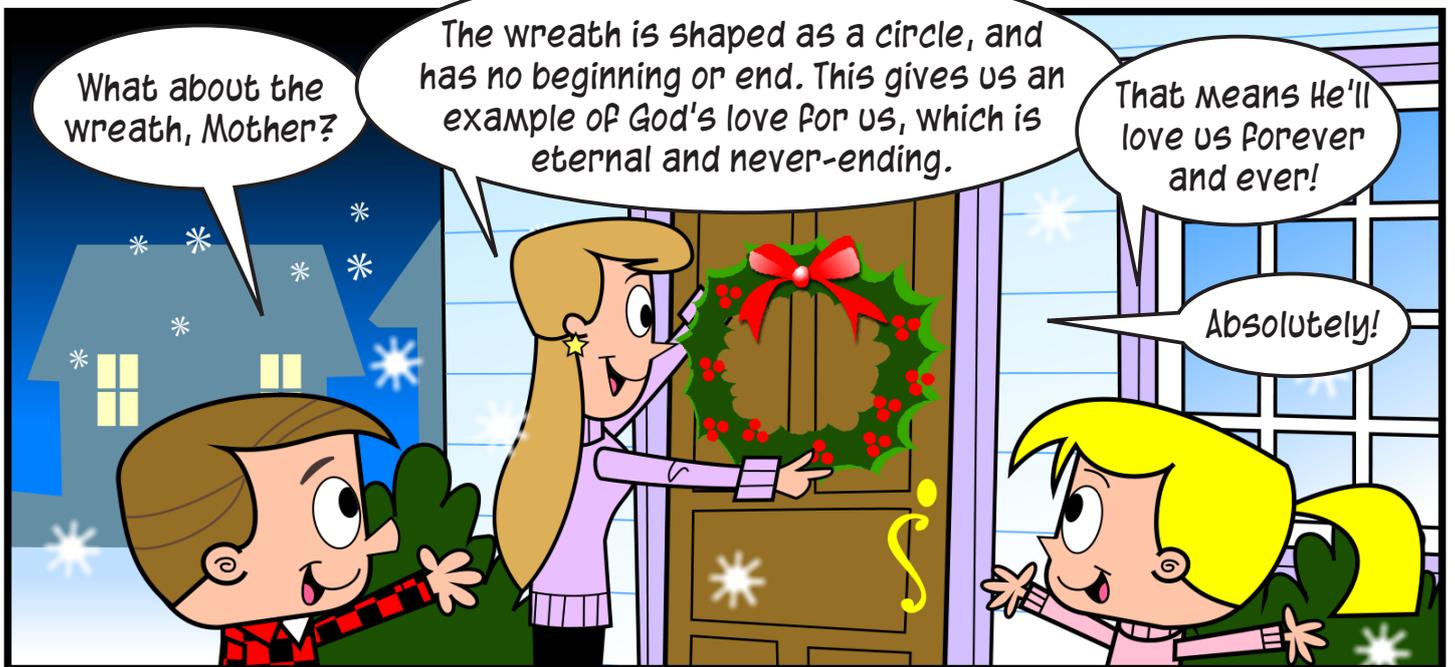
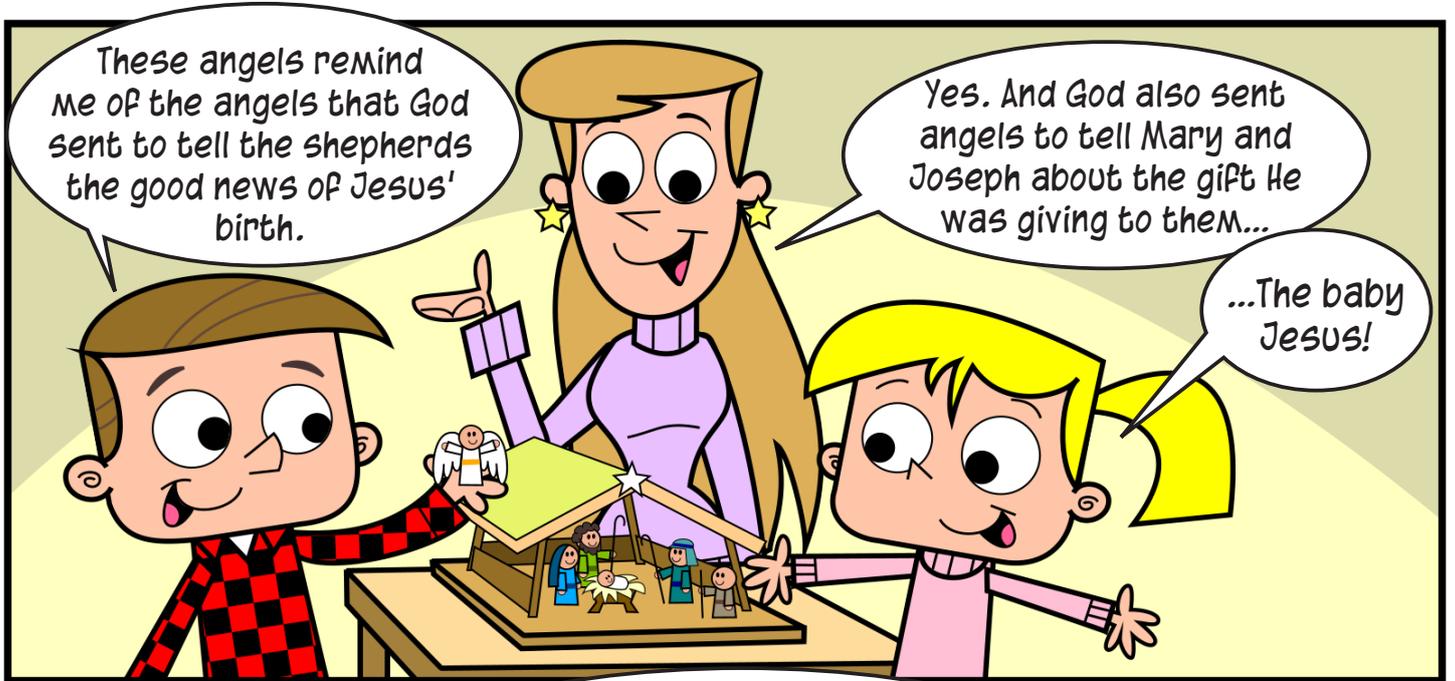
The shape of the candy cane makes me think of a shepherd's staff.

Yes, it does. And we can remember that God is like our caring shepherd who looks after us, His little sheep.



He can use the shepherd's staff to rescue a lamb that is stuck.

Exactly.





What makes Christmas, do you know?
Is it pretty gifts and shiny toys
All wrapped up so nice and bright
For little girls and boys?

Is it pretty mistletoe, cheery lights,
And a sparkly Christmas tree?
No, these do not Christmas make;
I am sure it's more than these.

Christ was born on this glad day,
And that's what makes Christmas.
Christ was born on this glad day,
And that's what makes Christmas.
Yes, that's what makes Christmas!

—Author unknown