



Luke 2:11

Gathering

APPRECIATION

We live in a world where people feel entitled to everything. Have you ever given someone something they took and didn't even say thank you? They show no appreciation. How do you feel when that happens?

The word appreciation means “*understanding the nature, quality or magnitude of something.*” Do we believers appreciate the miracle of Christmas the way we ought to? Luke tells us of the good news of great joy for all people, “*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*” (Luke 2:11)

During the lockdown of this pandemic, we became appreciative of Zoom, Facebook, Teams, and other platforms. You see, they made it possible for us to see and communicate with friends, family, and our family of faith when we isolated. Those connections were significant for many of us, especially when we were feeling lonely and/or hopeless. Small things become valuable when we understand what they mean.

God created humankind to be in perfect harmony with him, but we lost that communion with him because our first parents disobeyed him. We needed someone flawless that could restore that relationship. That is what Jesus' birth did for us! As we share the nativity story this season, let's show how we appreciate that Jesus became flesh to reconcile us with God.

After reading the scripture, consider these questions

- What do you do when you feel unappreciated?
- How do you show appreciation for Jesus or the people in your life?
- What have you come to appreciate more this year, this Christmas season?
- What does the word Savior, Messiah, and Lord mean to you?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.



Gathering

APPRECIATION

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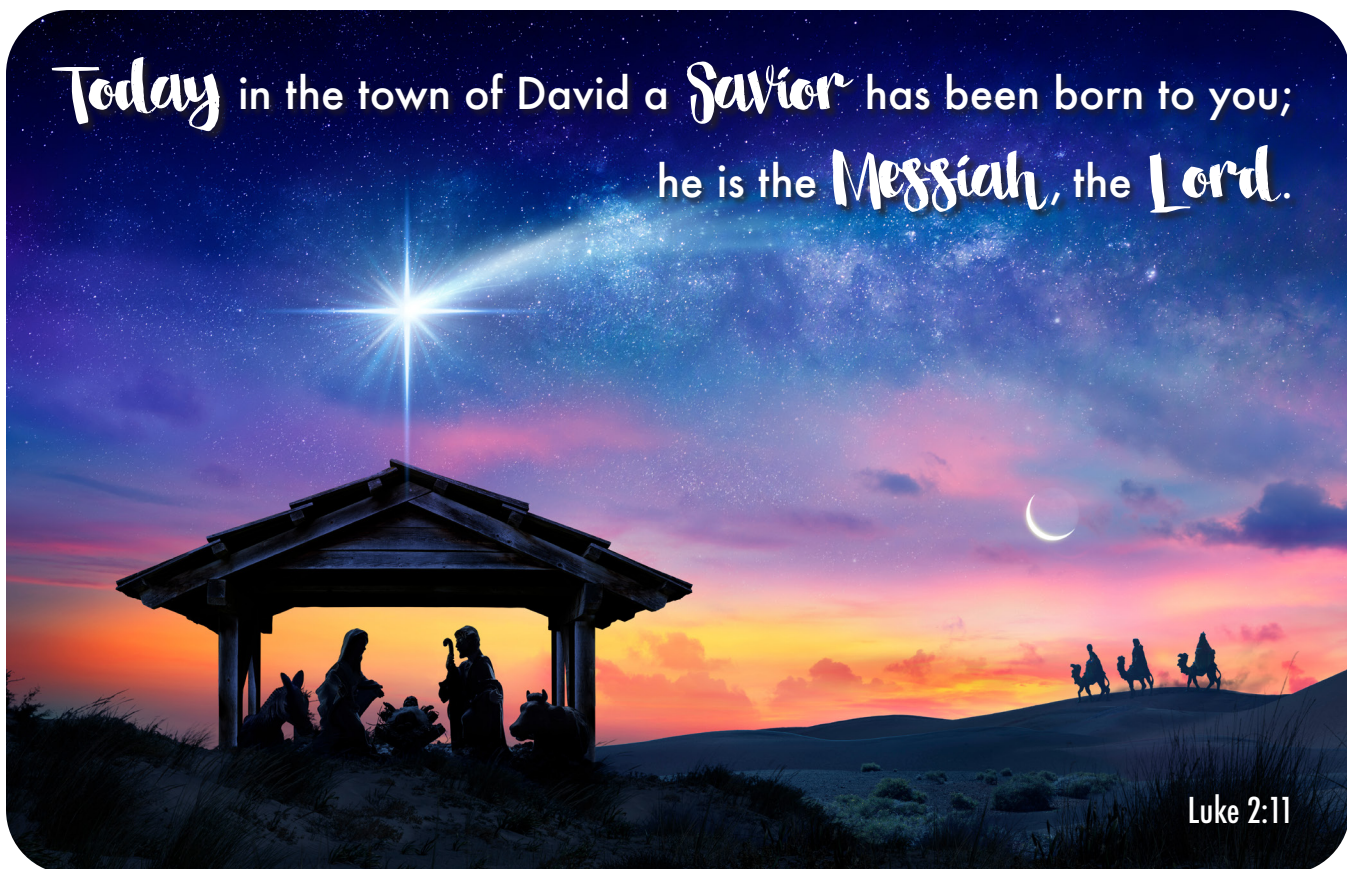
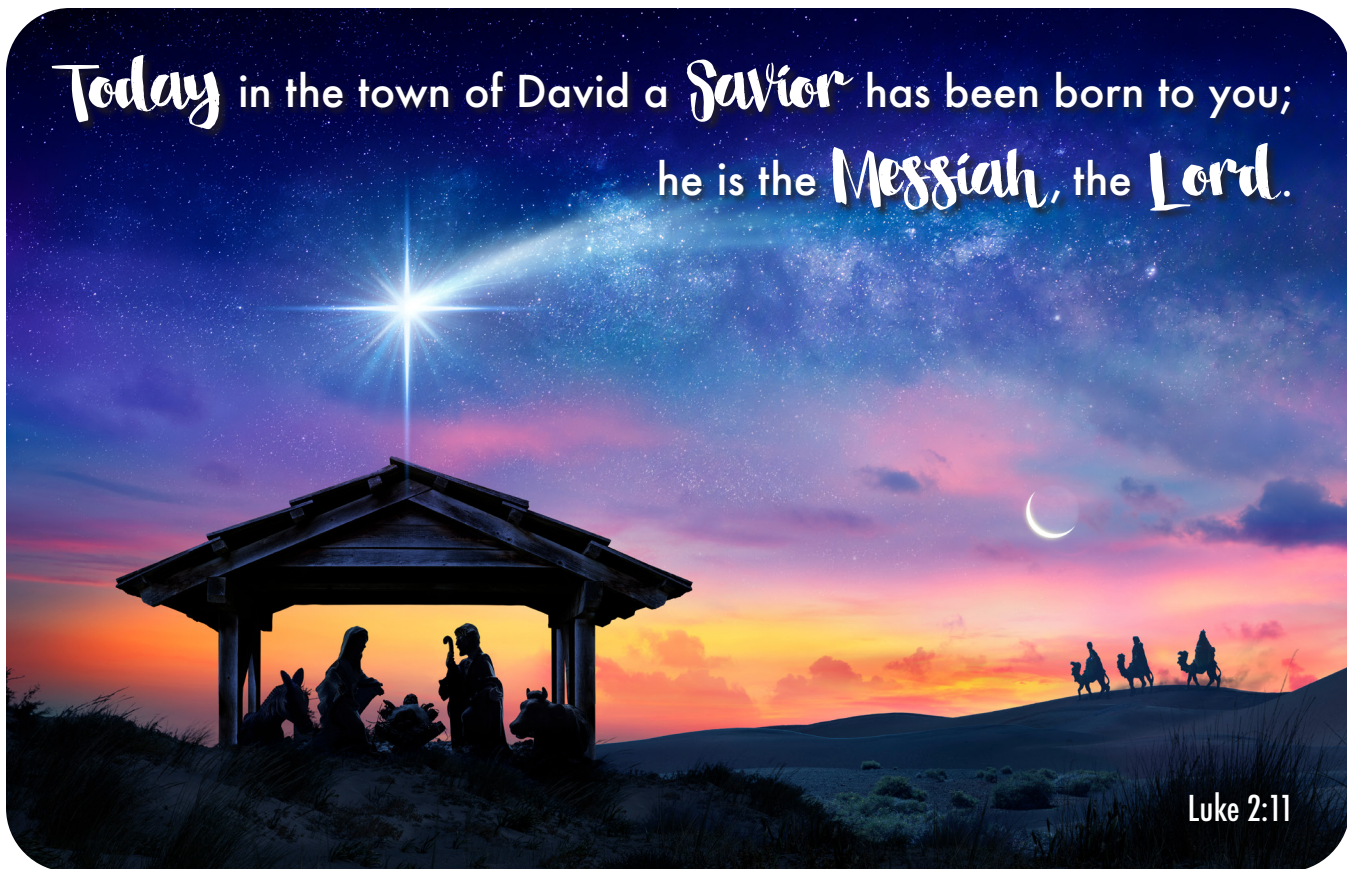
What does the word Savior, Messiah, and Lord mean to **you**?

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Because of man's disobedience, sin entered the world. Rebellion that results in death. Humanity needed a Savior to reconcile them with God. Reconciliation is defined as 'bringing back a former state of harmony'. The son of God left his throne at the request of His father, took on flesh, and became a sin offering for us to be in one accord with the father. As we celebrate Christmas, let's appreciate the gift of salvation and reconciliation with God Jesus made possible for us.

Explore the following scripture:

JOHN 3:16

How do the gifts we may receive this season compare with God's gift to us?

COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

What are the components of Jesus' gift to us described in this passage? Share what you appreciate about each one.



*Written by Lt. Florette Etienne,
Greater New York Division*



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