



*October 3, 2021  
Sunday School*

### **MAIN THOUGHT**

And they continued  
stedfastly in the  
apostles' doctrine and  
fellowship, and in  
breaking of bread, and  
in prayers.  
(Acts 2:42 KJV)

**Lesson:**  
Praise For Salvation

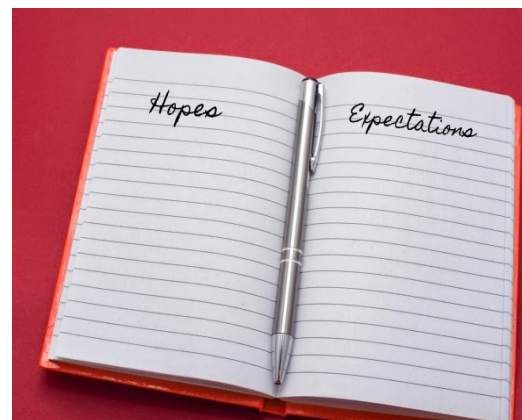
**Scripture:**  
Acts 2:32-33, 37-47

**Unifying Topic**  
Celebrating God

# Weekly Compass

## **Indescribable and Glorious Joy**

**3** All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, <sup>4</sup> and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. <sup>5</sup> And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. <sup>6</sup> So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. <sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus



Christ is revealed to the whole world. <sup>8</sup> You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. <sup>9</sup> The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:3-9 NLT

## **A Great Expectation!**

Having high expectations for something by working hard and waiting patiently for it can be disappointing when that something is finally obtained or it presents itself, and the results do not meet the expectation. Bummer, right? Well, the Word of God has great news! There is someone we can place our highest expectations in and have no worries on the results. That someone is Jesus Christ!



### Prayer

Father, thank You for showing us unconditional love and mercy. We are unworthy of such an expression of compassion. Lord, we thank You for leaving us an inheritance that no one can alter or destroy. The strength You will give us through our faith in You as we go through the trials and tribulations, we thank You. We ask right now Father that You continue to watch over us day in and day out. From dangers seen and unseen. Give us the wisdom and ability to be Christ-like, in our thoughts, actions, and speech. You are awesome Lord. Thank You for all that You have done, will do, and continue to do. We love You, thank You, and will continue to give You praise through the good and bad times, because You are with us through the good and bad times. In your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ's name we pray, Amen.



Peter explains that due to God raising His son Jesus Christ from the dead, we can live with a great expectation. Why? Because we have a priceless inheritance that is stored in heaven! An inheritance that is pure, undefiled, and cannot be altered or destroyed (vs 3-4). Let's not skip over one key word that drives this verse. That word is "MERCY." Verse 3 says, "...It is by His great mercy that we have been born again...." Mercy is when someone shows compassion when there is reason not to. As humans, we are natural born sinners who fail every day. God grants us mercy through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ!

When viewing life through spiritual lens, this great expectation and priceless inheritance we look forward to in heaven, brings a level of peace and joy that is hard to explain. In conjunction, God is sheltering His children until it is time to obtain this awesome reward, which comes through faith in Him (vs 5). God is truthful and cannot lie.

Peter informs us that while we have a great inheritance to look forward to, there will be trials and tribulations. Just as our Lord went through trials, so shall we. Luke 9:23 states, "And he said to all, 'If anyone would

come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me'." Christ took up and carried His own cross to get back to the Father on His way to calvary to die for our sins. We too must take up our own cross as we look forward to meeting our Lord and Savior one day and receiving that eternal inheritance.

In conclusion, the pain, suffering, trials, and storms we go through in life are purposeful. They are not meant to defeat or harm us. These storms are a test of our faith. Just as gold must go through a refining process to reach its level of purity, so must we as believers (vs 7). How lovely it will be when that sweet day comes, when we as believers who have stood the test of time through trial and tribulations by way of trusting God, can reap our reward and inherit the Kingdom of God with indescribable joy!

### Talking Points

1. Where has God's mercy shown up in your life?
2. How does it make you feel knowing that you have a reward waiting for you in heaven that cannot be altered or destroyed?
3. How will you stand firm in your faith when the tests and trials of life show up at your front door?

