

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

Mark 9

What we will see in this chapter:

- Jesus being seen in his glory
- Jesus heals a deaf mute boy
- Jesus' reactions to various situations with his disciples
- Jesus' teaching about humility
- Jesus' comments about causing spiritual stumbling or sin

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

Chapter verses	Questions (to help with your notes)	Suggested notes
1 to 8	1. What did the three disciples see and what were they told?	Peter, James and John saw: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus' appearance change and his clothes shine ➤ Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus A voice from the cloud [from God] told the disciples to listen to his son Jesus.
9 & 10	2. What did the disciples not understand?	They didn't understand what rising from the dead meant.
11 to 13	3. What did Jesus say in response to the disciples question about Elijah?	He said that Elijah had come already. Events written about him have happened. Jesus also said that he would suffer greatly and be despised.
14 to 20	4. What happened when they re-joined the other disciples?	The disciples had been asked by a man to cure his son of a mute spirit, which they were unable to do. Jesus commented on their unbelief and asked that the son be brought to him. The child then convulsed and fell on the ground.
21 to 29	5. What did Jesus say would make the boy's healing possible and what did he then do?	He said it would be possible if the father believed. He then rebuked the spirit and the boy got up.
30 to 32	6. What did Jesus predict?	Jesus predicted that he would be handed over to people who would kill him, but he would rise again three days later.

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33 to 37	7. What did Jesus tell his disciples about humility and why?	Jesus used a child to teach them humility after the disciples had argued about who was the greatest.
38 to 41	8. What did Jesus say about those who healed in his name?	They were not to be forbidden because no-one, who spoke badly about Jesus, could do a miracle in his name.
42 to 50 <i>Text note: Jesus is quoting Isaiah 66 v 24.</i>	9. What did Jesus say about *stumbling? <i>* To sin or offend in other versions. Text note: For more information on Gehenna see section 4.</i>	Jesus said that we must cut things out of our lives if they cause us (or others) to stumble. He warned that otherwise we will be destroyed, or end up, in Gehenna.

3 Related theme from v 35: *Humility.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the Bible. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
Psalm 10 v 17	God listens to what humble people want.
Proverbs 16 v 18 and 19	It is better to be humble because the proud will fall.
Isaiah 57 v 15	God dwells with those who are humble.
Micah 6 v 8	God wants us to love mercy and walk humbly with God.
Mathew 23 v 10 to 12	Christ tells us not to want to be a master. The great ones are servants. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled.
Colossians 3 v 12	God's chosen ones should be kind, lowly and humble.

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4 Bible verses about *Gehenna*.

Have a look at these related verses about Gehenna and use the questions to help you make notes. (Some versions say "hell" or "hell fire"). *Gehenna* refers to "The Valley of the son of Hinnom" which is just outside Jerusalem.

Chapter verses	Questions	Suggested notes
2 Chronicles 28 v 3, 33 v 6	1. What was being done in the valley of the son of Hinnom?	Ahaz made offerings to the Baals. Both he and Manasseh burned their sons as offerings.
2 Kings 23 v 10	2. What did Josiah do in the valley of the son of Hinnom?	He defiled it to stop anyone burning their son or daughter as an offering.
Jeremiah 7 v 30 to 31	3. What does the LORD say about burning people in fire?	God says that he never commanded anyone to burn their son or daughter and the idea never came into his heart.
Matthew 5 v 22 <i>Text note: "Raca" is a derogatory expression meaning "empty headed".</i>	4. In these three parallel statements, what does Jesus say we will be liable to if we are angry?	We will be liable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ judgement ➤ the council ➤ hell (Gehenna) fire.
James 3 v 6	5. What does James say about the tongue?	The tongue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ is a fire ➤ a world of iniquity ➤ defiles the whole body ➤ sets on fire the course of nature ➤ is set on fire by Gehenna.