



Introduction

Hello there friends! Welcome back to another week of youth group! I am so glad that you're here. I have been praying that this time will be beneficial to you and that your faith will grow!

Tonight, we are starting a new series. This series is called *Inconceivable!* and it takes its name from a certain movie, one that is at the top of many peoples' top ten movies list! Does anyone know what it is? That's right, the *Princess Bride!*

In the *Princess Bride* movie, there is a character named Vizzini, who is sort of the leader of a group of ruffians. Throughout the movie, he says that certain ideas or thoughts are inconceivable. In other words, something that is not capable of being imagined.

The problem is, many of the things he says are "inconceivable" are in fact, conceivable. They are pretty common-sense things. Someone does end up following their boat, even though he says its inconceivable. The person following them does climb the cliffs of insanity, even though he says it is inconceivable.

At one point, another character named Inigo Montoya says, "You keep using that word. I don't think it means what you think it means."

Now, if we are honest, we have all been guilty of using a word incorrectly or misunderstanding it. [\[Use your own example here.\]](#) Just yesterday, I asked my oldest son why he had to constantly engage in arguments with his brother. He looked at me with disgust and said something like, "Why would I KISS him?!"

My son knew "engagement" had something to do with getting married and kissing but didn't know that it was a word we also use to mean starting something, like an argument with your brother. Sometimes we think we know exactly what we are talking about, when we probably need to check a dictionary every now and then.

The truth is that we can end up doing this with certain verses of Scripture. We sometimes see verses written on bumper stickers or coffee cups that seem to apply them in a way that God never really intended. This series is about revisiting some verses and finding the even better biblical truth behind the misconception. So, we've called it *Inconceivable! That verse doesn't mean what you think it means*.

What we want to do is look at these verses in their original context, and determine what God communicated to us there. What happens a lot of times is that we take a verse out of where it belongs and just let it stand alone. When we do that, we miss some key information that helps us understand the verse.

Think about it like a puzzle piece. You can hold up a puzzle piece and see its shape, its colors, its design, and a lot of other things about it. But you might not be able to tell exactly what it is without the rest of the puzzle. When you take that piece and put it in with all its other pieces, the picture becomes clear.

That's what we want to do with these verses over the next few weeks. We want to put them back in their place and see the more beautiful picture that unfolds through God's Word.

Now, there's one thing I want to note about this whole discussion. You might love these verses, even though you might have misunderstood them. Maybe you have them as a sticker on your car or water bottle or phone. It might be that you have gotten a tattoo of one of these verses and you're getting a little nervous that you might have the wrong meaning!

I'm not giving this series to steal your favorite verse away from you or make you feel dumb. We will go through this so that we can see these verses for what they are: beautiful promises from God that go beyond our human understanding and speak greater truth about God and how He is at work in our lives.

So, don't worry about your tattoo. Just take the new truth and let it replace the old misconception. It might be like replacing your phone with a new one but keeping the same case!

Verse Introduction & Misconceptions

Today, we will start at a very familiar place for many of us. This is a verse that really does get put on bumper stickers, coffee cups, shirts, every decoration on the shelves at Hobby Lobby, and many other places. You are probably very familiar with this verse. It's Philippians 4:13, and here it is:

*"I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13 (CSB)*

Some of you may have heard a different translation that says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." That's just a difference in translating the verse from the original Greek.

Raise your hand if you have seen this verse somewhere like a t-shirt, a car window sticker, picture frame, or some other kind of merchandise. The chances are most of you have seen it hanging somewhere at some point. And chances are, most of you have heard it applied or used in a few different ways.

This verse sounds incredibly encouraging all by itself. I can do ALL things through Christ because He gives me strength! That should mean that we can conquer even our toughest challenges because Jesus is with us and gives us the strength to do it. No matter what we go through in life, we know that we can do it because of Jesus.

So, we take that verse, and we slap it on everything we can think of. It is so common to see this verse used in the world of sports. The idea there is that although the next game or competition might be challenging, Jesus will give us the strength to pull out a win. Or, at the very least, to perform to our personal best.

But it's not just in the sports world. We also might use this verse when we are nervous about an upcoming test or succeeding in some other academic pursuit. There are many, many other areas where we try to apply this verse, whether that is a job interview, when we really want to ask out somebody we like, we need to confess something we did to our parents, or even when we just don't want to catch a cold.



Small Group Goal

The purpose of this small group time is to help reinforce the deeper truth behind the week's verse, for students to own that truth, and to apply it to their own lives.

Icebreaker

- Have students share about something that didn't turn out like they expected. Be prepared to share your own experience.

Discussion Questions

- Can someone read or recite Romans 8:28 for us one more time?
- When have you ever heard someone say this verse to someone who is struggling with something?
- How do people misunderstand this verse? We talked about it not meaning that everything will turn out like we hope it will, but what about some other ways?
- What is the context of Romans 8:28? What is the good that this verse is talking about?
- Did this lesson change the way that you understand this verse? How so? What questions do you still have?
- How does it make you feel to know that no matter the outcome, God has not abandoned you?
- What is the guaranteed outcome of every situation we find ourselves in as Christians? How does that make you feel?
- What situation going on in your life right now can you apply the truth of this verse to?

Prayer



Week 3: Matthew 7:1-6

This Week's Verse

“Do not judge, so that you won't be judged.”
Matthew 7:1

Misconceptions

- We should never _____ someone else's choices.

Truth

- We shouldn't pass judgment on others when we need to _____ ourselves
- _____ makes all the difference
- Discern the right time, place, and person to _____.

God used this message to...

Comfort Me

Convict Me

Challenge Me

Convince Me

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