ANNOUNCEMENTS

TCCO KIDS CONNECT EVENT: Join us for our next TCCO Kids Connect Event on Fri. 11/13 from 9:30-11:30am at The Sand Patch in Tulsa! TCCO Kids has rented out the entire facility just for our group. Kids will have a blast playing in the indoor sand boxes, while parents get to enjoy a coffee and connect with one another. Use the QR code to register. Contact elaine@theconnecting.co with any questions. We can't wait to see you there!

HELP DECORATE TCCO FOR CHRISTMAS: You are invited to stay after the 11am church service on Sun. 11/22 and help us decorate TCCO for Christmas! Lunch will be provided. Use the QR code to register by Thurs. 11/19 with the total number from your family/group volunteering and eating lunch. Childcare will not be provided; but children, kindergarten & older, are welcome to stay and work directly under their parents' supervision. Contact brittany@theconnecting.co with any questions!

TCCO GIVES 2026: We are adopting 25-30 children & their parents again this year, many who are displaced, and all who are in need this holiday season. We will provide them with Christmas dinner and buy gifts from their wish lists. Three Ways to Help: 1) Mark any donations over and above your tithes/offerings to help sponsor these families as "TCCO Gives." 2) Take gift tags to shop for gifts for these children available starting Sun. 11/22 on the Christmas trees in our lobby. Please sign-up in the lobby on the clipboards for whichever tag/s you take. See info sheet or QR code for instructions & drop-off days/times. 3) We need volunteers to help drive and make deliveries to each family on Sun. 12/20, after the 11am service, starting at 12:30pm. To volunteer, or any other questions, please email outreach@theconnecting.co.

CHRISTMAS SHE NIGHT: Ladies, join us for a special Christmas SHE Night on Fri. 12/4 from 6:30–8:30pm at TCCO! During this busy Christmas season, we're creating an evening to slow down, connect, and reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness in our lives. Enjoy a cozy evening with a light dinner (soup, salad, and bread), desserts, dirty soda bar, worship, an encouraging devotion from Pastor Leann, time for intentional reflection, and a fun Christmas craft! Feel free to wear your favorite Christmas comfies! Open to all ladies ages 16 and older, so invite all the ladies in your life! Register using the QR code by Tues. 12/1. No childcare will be provided. If an extenuating childcare circumstance prevents you from attending, please contact one of our staff ladies. Questions? Contact brittany@theconnecting.co.

TCCO MEN'S QUARTERLY BREAKFAST: All Men 16 & older are invited to join us Sat. 12/5 from 7:30-9:00am at TCCO. Don't miss out on great coffee, breakfast, a powerful devotion, and a great opportunity to connect & grow together with other men! Use the QR code to register, no later than Thurs. 12/3. Invite all the men in your life to join you.

QR Code for Registrations

SAVE THE DATE

Wed. 11/18, TCCO Students+ Night: Friendsgiving, 6:30-8:00pm
Wed. 11/25, NO TCCO Students, Thanksgiving Break
Sun. 11/29, Advent Begins
Sun. 12/20, Christmas Sunday at TCCO

11.01.2026

"DIE EMPTY"

WEEK 1

THE GIFT GOD NEVER NEEDED

Travis Cherry

we exist to connect people to jesus and each other

“DIE EMPTY”
Week 1: The Gift God Never Needed
11.10.2026

This series is ALL about what God WANTS FOR you and nothing at all about what anyone NEEDS FROM you!

“Why would God want me to give…in the first place?”

1. GOD DOESN’T NEED WHAT YOU HAVE

ACTS 17:24–25 (NRSV) — *[24] The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.*

Sadly we sometimes approach giving as though God and humanity are involved in some kind of business arrangement.

Without realizing it…we begin treating generosity like a transaction…like we’re making payments on some kind of heavenly insurance policy.

ASEITY: God possesses life in Himself; God doesn’t depend upon anything outside of Himself for His existence.

The value and the significance of a gift is often found in the relationship it expresses and represents between the gift giver and receiver.

2. GOD SEES THE GIVER OVER THE GIFT

GENESIS 4:1–7 (NRSV) — *[1] Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have produced a man with the help of the Lord.” [2] Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. [3] In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, [4] and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, [5] but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. [6] The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? [7] If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.”*

We cannot separate the gift from the giver.

Hebrews 11:4 (NRSV) — *By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain’s. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks.*

An offering is never merely about the thing being offered. The posture, attitude, and heart of the giver matters deeply.

You can give a large amount of money without love and worship…and you can give a small amount of money with extraordinary sacrifice and faith.

What if generosity is one of the greatest ways God shapes our human hearts?

Scripture clearly teaches that generosity should become a way of life for us as believers.

3. GOD WANTS YOUR HEART…NOT YOUR GIFT

PHILIPPIANS 4:15–19 (NRSV) —*[15] You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. [16] For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. [17] Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. [18] I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. [19] And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Our giving has both a horizontal and a vertical dimension; horizontally to support ministry, vertically to be an expression of our worship.

Giving isn’t just something we do FOR the church; it should also be something we offer TO God through the local church.

Generosity is not just about what your money can accomplish…it’s about who you are becoming through the practice and worship of giving.

God invites us to give not because He needs what we’re holding, but because He wants us to learn to open our hands, surrender, and trust Him.

The things we repeatedly do have a way of shaping the people we eventually become.

Our habits don’t just reveal our hearts;…over time they help form them.

Our financial decisions powerfully communicate and reveal what matters most to us.

Questions for Reflection:

- What does my current relationship with money reveal about what and who I am trusting?
- What does how I currently spend my money reveal about what matters most to me and who I am becoming?
- What does my giving communicate and express about my relationship with God?