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

11.08.2026

"DIE EMPTY"

WEEK 2

THE TRUST TEST

Travis Cherry

we exist to connect people to jesus and each other

“DIE EMPTY”
Week 2: The Trust Test
11.08.2026

Two very different relationships we can choose to have with money: Money as a resource vs. Money as my source.

MATTHEW 6:19–24 (NRSV) — *19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; 23 but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”*

1. YOUR TREASURE REVEALS YOUR HEART

Thēsauros: Greek word for treasure; an idea of stored wealth; or valuable possessions; or the place where those valuables are kept.

The things we invest in have a way of capturing our attention and affection.

What consistently receives our attention can also begin shaping what we love.

“Is my life organized around having or around being?”

Mammon: money becoming a master; something that exercises authority over our decisions.

The things we treasure have a way of revealing what we’re trusting.

2. YOUR WORRY REVEALS YOUR TRUST

MATTHEW 6:25–34 (NRSV) —*25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”*

Jesus isn’t giving us a guarantee that nothing difficult will ever happen… instead He is inviting us to live with a different perspective & understanding of WHO He is.

Financial struggle is not evidence that you have failed God…and financial concern does not automatically mean you lack faith.

The solution to every financial fear isn’t necessarily more money; often the deeper issue is what we’re depending on money to provide us.

Money is not merely a neutral object in our experience…it can become a force that shapes our loyalties, our decisions, and even our sense of freedom. (*Jacques Ellul)*

Jesus is inviting us to be responsible with our resources without becoming consumed by them.

The Gospel does not teach us that God can be manipulated through financial transactions; and faith is not a method for controlling God.

Trusting God means being faithful even when we cannot control the outcome…but testing God means demanding that God produce the outcome we’ve chosen.

Faith doesn’t give to God in order to control what comes back…faith gives because it trusts the God who has already given.

3. YOUR GENEROSITY REVEALS YOUR SURRENDER

1 TIMOTHY 6:17–19 (NRSV) — *17 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, 19 thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.*

Generosity is a perspective, a lifestyle, and a way of relating to what we have.

Generosity should interrupt the assumption that everything we possess exists exclusively for us. Choosing to be generous is one of the most powerful ways to loosen money’s grip on our hearts.

Generosity isn’t based on my feelings; Generosity is a decision, a choice, an act of obedience, trust, and surrender.

What if the act of giving and learning to be generous is one of the greatest ways God can teach us to fully trust in Him?