

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.21.2025

TCCO KIDS TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our TCCO Kids Dept. is exploding with LOTS of amazing kids! So, we are looking for more enthusiastic and passionate volunteers who are eager to share your time and talents to help nurture our kids' love for Jesus and their understanding of His love for them! If you are interested in serving in TCCO Kids, please see Elaine Hathaway (elaine@theconnecting.co) or scan the QR code located on the wall in the kids check-in area to fill out an interest form. We need you!

NO SUNDAY SERVICES on 12/28: This is an opportunity for us to say THANK YOU to our Dream Team for serving week after week all year long, and to give you all a break. We also highly value the importance of time with family and friends. So, please plan to use this time to be with your people and go be JESUS and THE CHURCH outside the 4 walls of our church building! And invite everyone back for our first Sunday of the New Year together on Sun. 1/4/26!

TCCO KIDS CHRISTMAS CONNECT EVENT: Join us for a fun, cozy, candy cane kind of morning on Tues. 12/30 from 10-11:30am at TCCO. Come dressed in your Christmas cozies and ready for some fun games, a story and a yummy treat! This event is designed for the whole family...parents and kids, 5th grade and under, will engage in all of the Christmas-themed activities together. Use the QR code to register by end of TODAY Sun. 12/21. Contact elaine@theconnecting.co with any questions, or for more information.

TCCO CHRISTMAS TEAR DOWN & CLEAN UP: Everyone is welcome to come serve and help us at TCCO on Fri. 1/2, @ 9:30am. Please email brittany@theconnecting.co to sign up, so we can plan enough breakfast treats for everyone. Children are welcome to come & serve with their parents.

SAVE THE DATES

Wed. 12/24 & 12/31, No TCCO Students—Winter Break

Wed. 1/7, TCCO Students New Semester Kick-Off, 6:30pm

Sun. 1/4, 1st Sunday of 2026!!!

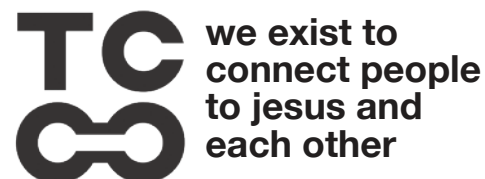
Sun. 1/25, Winter Lunch With The Staff, 12:30-2:00pm

Sat. 3/28, TCCO Marriage Conference, 9:00am-4:30pm



THE WAY BACK TO WONDER “THE ETERNAL PLAN... BEFORE TIME BEGAN”

Travis Cherry



THE WAY BACK TO WONDER – WEEK 7
“THE ETERNAL PLAN...BEFORE TIME BEGAN”

12.21.26

KEY SCRIPTURES: EPHESIANS 1:3-10, REVELATION 13:8

Before there was Bethlehem, there was a plan. Before there was a manger, there was a decision in the heart of God.

Christmas is not God reacting to a broken world. Christmas is God revealing a purpose He set in motion long before the world was even made.

Ephesians 1:3-10 — ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,* ⁴ *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love* ⁵ *he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,* ⁶ *to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.* ⁷ *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,* ⁸ *which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight* ⁹ *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ* ¹⁰ *as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.*

Revelation 13:8 — *and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

God did not react to humanity's sin.

God did not scramble to make a plan.

God did not see our brokenness and create a last minute solution.

Before there was a manger, there was intention.

Before there was a world to save, there was a decision to love.

Before history ever unfolded, eternity was already set in motion.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY SHOWS US 3 THINGS:

1. IT ALL BEGAN IN ETERNITY

Before you ever lived a single moment, God had already decided to love you and already had a plan in place to be in relationship with you.

2. A GOD WHO MOVES TOWARD US

God did not wait on us...He made the first move...He moved toward us before we ever even knew we needed Him or considered moving toward Him.

The cross was written into the story before the world was ever formed, which means the manger was never an afterthought.

God's plan was not simply to rescue humanity from a distance...it was always to come near!

The story of Christmas is not just about salvation being available to us...it is about a relationship being restored.

3. GOD'S PLAN WAS TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE FOREVER

The goal of Christmas is God bringing heaven and earth back together and bringing more of heaven here on earth.

God's eternal plan was not just to save us but to stay with us, to dwell with us, and to be with us forever!

The Christmas Story shows us the eternal heart of God displayed in all of time and throughout eternity!