



## Wednesdays this Fall - 8/27 to 11/19

**A REMINDER:** what CULTIVATE is all about. This is a primary avenue we use to highlight our “GROW DEEP” priority, a key emphasis for us at Southland (based on Colossians 2:6-7). Cultivate specifically offers a mid-week opportunity to work toward that goal of feeding our faith by planting roots deep into Christ *together*.

**The content for our FALL 2025 session:** We’re continuing the format we call “Deeper Life Groups” (or “D-Groups”). Here is the plan for these groups:

**The content is God’s Word.** Within D-Groups, the primary focus is about digging -in to Scripture. We want to see how it intersects with our lives so we can be deeply rooted in Christ.

*For this round of D-Groups, we are focusing on the book of ACTS. While much about the church is different today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we’re ultimately connected to what happened in these earliest days of the Church. After Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension, the work of His Spirit through His people unfolded in this book. Some have described it as part of our “back story.” It’s also appropriate to use the idea of the legacy that has been handed down from Jesus through His people - it all began here. Whatever the language we use, it’s good for us to consider what happened as Jesus’ followers continued His mission as His church ... what still continues in and among us today! In fact, there should be something particularly significant to us as we consider the Church in the earliest days. While it’s not a rigid blueprint, it captures some of the purest ideals that Jesus’ people should strive for - even what should still matter today.*



*During this Fall semester, we’ll work our way through these 28 chapters. As is typical for us, there will be a simple handout (starting for 9/3) to help you prepare for each week. It will identify the text to read/study as well as provide some material to guide your reflection prior to your D-Group’s meeting. We are excited about looking at Acts together in this context!*

**The goals are growth & transformation.** We want this to be fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to do His work in us. It’s not about information, but about us being shaped and molded by Him to be more like Christ in every area of our lives.

As always, the context of D-Groups is about doing this *together* in relationships for better growth, mutual encouragement, accountability and prayer. These are smaller groups of about 6-10 people (the basic target, sometimes more) of the same gender. This type of setting opens the door for beneficial connecting on a deeper level as *together* we strive for growth and transformation in Christ.

We encourage you to join a D-Group. You can RSVP electronically with this link: <https://gosouthland.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1015842> (if viewing this electronically, you can click directly on that) or using the QR-code to the right. You can also use the RSVP sheet at the CULTIVATE display in the foyer. We'd love to have you join us as we GROW DEEP in our faith with others!



**DATES/TIMING of this Fall 2025 SESSION.** We re-launch CULTIVATE and D-Groups on Wednesday, August 27; this session runs through November 19 (the week before Thanksgiving). After a break, we will then resume in January with a new semester.

Each week, we do serve a basic meal from 5:30-6:15 (see below for more details) with the actual ministry programming for all ages running from 6:30-7:45.

#### **PROGRAMMING for Kids and Youth for this session.**

Kids up through age 3 are in the nursery area for childcare.



“Children of Praise” practice for kids age 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade:

Our younger students up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade (*older students can also talk to Jessica about being a part of C.O.P.*) are again using Wednesdays to practice and prepare for their annual Christmas production they will put on in early December. This time includes rehearsals for the music and drama, but also involves some other activities along the way (especially for the younger ones). This meets in the auditorium. Be watching “The Vine” for ongoing C.O.P. updates, including important dates to know.

Older students (the rest of middle school & high school) meet in the Fellowship Hall as part of Cultivate. They are walking through the Gospel of Matthew during these Wednesday evenings.

**More re: MEALS.** We serve meals each Wednesday for the sake of convenience as well as for an opportunity to fellowship with others in the church family.

Here are some details regarding the meals:

**The cost for each meal remains at \$4/person with a max of \$15/family.**

You can RSVP for meals at the Cultivate display (the same place where you can also sign-up to join a “D-Group”). Even if you are not able to join us for supper every week, having a basic number certainly helps in our meal preparation.

Again, we also have an electronic RSVP option available. It can be found in the same place mentioned above (using either the link or the QR-code above).

***We hope you are able to join us for this CULTIVATE session!***