

## SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26

Dear Reader,

I am excited to invite you to consider joining the Summer in the Grove Class of 2026. I have always been amazed by how Jesus shows up when people choose to set themselves apart to grow closer to Him, and I know this year will be no different.

My Dad (Brad) helped pioneer and lead the first Summer in the Grove when I was just starting elementary school. I remember wanting to do it so badly! Even as a kid, it was so incredible to see how God was changing people's lives. When we choose to follow Jesus, incredible things happen, whether you're participating in a course or not. But as I grew up, I continued to see the fruit, both short- and long-term, of Summer in the Grove.

By the time I finally did my first Summer in the Grove, I wondered what God would do in me. I was so excited, and yet a little nervous. By then I was very familiar with the topics and knew there wasn't much in the classes I had probably heard before. I soon learned that the change I used to see in the students year after year wasn't from the teachings, but about making space in our lives to choose Jesus.

Since 2011, we have seen over 75 students from 21 states, and several countries go through Summer in the Grove. We have seen them grow through the structured class times, but it's mostly through the times in the Bible, seeking the Lord individually and collectively, different conversations, and the friction that comes when iron sharpens iron as we grow together. This kind of intentional spiritual formation creates space for inward transformation, shaping us to live more like Jesus in every area of our lives. In the individuals who have gone through a summer, as well as in my personal experience, this intensive probably won't solve every problem or instantly produce all the fruit that you want to see. But when we say yes to Jesus and take time to behold Him, there will always be long-lasting roots and fruit that will follow.

Summer in the Grove isn't going to be an all-in-one stop for every way you want to grow. Each summer has been a little different. Some years there have been big missional impacts in the community, and sometimes individuals experience shifts in the trajectory of how God is leading them. At its core, Summer in the Grove is about growing deeper in love with Him and learning to live that out in the way we share our lives with others. But in the midst of the differences, each and every time something is always true: Jesus draws near to those who draw near to Him. Only He knows what exactly will happen this Summer in the Grove. Whether or not you choose to join us in SitG, I am fully confident that He has a good plan to grow you. And I know He will encounter you as you choose Him.

I hope you join us,  
Abigail McKoy

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## SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26

# Objective

### **Set aside a summer to grow towards living your life WITH Jesus, LIKE Jesus, and FOR Jesus**

Summer in the Grove is a 12 week intensive school of learning, growth, & set apart space for intentional spiritual formation. It's aim is to help participants move beyond a place of believing in a belief system, to knowing and following Jesus, the only One who is worthy to give our entire lives to. This intensive will dive into foundational topics like abiding, living on mission in our daily lives, and operating in both the gifts & the fruit of The Spirit. We want to walk with you as we all are growing in our love and commitment to God, His Body, and the overflow of seeing Christ known throughout every sphere of society, from our neighborhood, the marketplace, to the nations.

## Significant Dates

Opening Bonfire: **Sunday, May 24th**

Collective Worship Nights: **3rd Fridays of the Month - June 19 & July 17**

St. Mark's Place Missional Training Trip & Retreat: **(exact dates TBD)**

Graduation Banquet: **Thursday, August 14**

Move Out Day: **Saturday, August 16**

\*Please plan to be in Grove City by May 24 and plan to stay until August 16. We believe that fully devoting yourself is an important aspect of Summer in the Grove. Please plan accordingly and schedule vacation or other trips before or after SitG.\*

# What Is The Goal?

The goal is that each person will grow in being formed more into the image of Jesus, learning to abide with Christ, and to do what He did. We also want to cultivate space to learn and wrestle through why you believe what you believe.

Our focus areas:

## **1. Inward Transformation**

Living out of a whole heart & soul, developing a relationship with Christ that impacts every part of our lives from the inside out.

## **2. Scriptural Foundation**

We want to see you learn how to dive into the Scripture, learning, beholding and being transformed to be more like Jesus, the Word made flesh.

## **3. Missional Activation**

Learning how to move out of overflow of God's love to the people around us that don't yet know Him, and bring the kingdom of heaven to earth wherever we are.

*"Brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind"*

- Romans 12:1-2a AMP

## **SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26**

# How Will I Learn?

### ***Personal Devotion & Discipleship***

Deepen your relationship with God as you learn to develop personal and collective rhythms of prayer, worship, time in the Word, and rest throughout the week. There also will be extra time to receive mentorship from leaders as you work through homework assignments or any other questions that come up.

### ***Class Day Instruction and Impartation***

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday mornings are set aside for teaching, training, and impartation. These center around Biblical teaching (**the fuel**) and practical equipping (**the function**). These times are structured to be discussion-based and conversational, setting an atmosphere for self discovery, learning and growing together and with Jesus.

### ***Weekly Assignments***

Each class day session will end with practical assignments that will help you exercise what you are learning throughout the week. You will move beyond belief to practicing and obeying the commands of Scripture. This will be stretching in healthy ways, as you move beyond your comfort zone to follow passionately after Jesus, doing the things He did.

### ***Life in Community***

Summer in the Grove is intentionally integrated into our local community. While you will be closely following Jesus within the small group of Summer in the Grove, you will also be an integral part of a larger church community, as well as a part of the small town Grove City community as a whole!

## SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26

# Weekly Schedule

Each week you will have multiple class times, some homework to help experientially reinforce what you are learning. That being said, the schedule is made to leave space for living life and work together outside just the structured class time. We want a lot of your most impactful times to be outside the classroom, in the daily “mundane” moments, and living and working missionally. The exact weekly schedule will be nailed down around the different work availabilities. We will have at least two full work days, an evening time to be in the Word together, and we do require you to have one Sabbath day a week.

## Finances

### How much does Summer in the Grove cost?

**\$1775**

**\*\*We believe in the value of this internship & we never want cost to deter anyone from being a part of Summer in the Grove.** If cost is an issue, we will work with you to help you raise the funds needed for the summer. Because AOX runs Summer in the Grove at cost, you will need to have a plan in place for payment prior to move-in day. (Please let us know how we can work with you as soon as possible.)

#### ***What is included in this cost?***

- Twelve weeks of intense discipleship and leadership training
- Any Required Books & Materials for the Summer
- End of Summer Banquet
- Travel Cost for any Class Day Trips
- Experiential Learning Missional Trip to NYC
- Coffee & Lunch on class days

#### ***What is not included in this cost?***

- Groceries and personal items for living throughout the week
- Housing

#### ***When is the money due?***

- **Nonrefundable Deposit:** \$887.50 due on May 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Payment #2:** \$887.50 due on June 29<sup>th</sup>

## SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26

# Thoughts from those who have gone before...

*"Life changing is an expression we can overuse. But my experience during summer in the grove truly gave God the time to significantly shape my heart. There is something about setting time apart to become a student of the knowing that changes everything."*

**David Wade** - Summer in the Grove 2012, Pastor of All Saints Church, San Diego

*"In my pride, the idea of being a student again made me feel weak, Thankfully I obeyed what God was saying instead of what I felt, because that second summer was probably one of the most life-changing and humbling seasons of my life. In that summer I was stretched more than I had ever been. Sometimes that stretching was not pleasant, but I can't ignore that it was producing lasting fruit in my life. And when I look at the Summer in the Grove program that's what I can say for it. Be prepared to be stretched more than you ever have before. Be prepared for your paradigm of life to shift completely. And when it does, be prepared to see the beautiful fruit of your time here."* **Hannah Giffone** - Summer in the Grove 2013 and 2014

*"Jesus yearns to show us how much he loves us. Summer in the Grove was my first taste of his passionate expression of love. Through relationship, I was shown how the consuming love of Jesus turns brokenness to beauty and makes dead hearts come alive. I would encourage everyone to have a summer tucked away in the Grove, where the eyes of their bridegroom can transform them."* **Haley Andrews** - Summer in the Grove 2017

*"Summer in the Grove was a very unique and eye opening experience for me. It's not one that I came in knowing would be as impactful for me as it was. From the people, too many to recognize by name, who committed not only for your success in the program, but your spiritual growth. Through shared life, I was discipled and challenged to grow in my understanding of who God is, how we could seek Him and have a living experience of who Christ is molding me to be. Through guided scripture reading and revelations by engaging with the Word of God and within the guard rails of a loving Christ-centered community, I learned to trust God in a more profound way, to live a more selfless life and walk as Jesus did. The support was amazing and the renewed mindset I left with, was one ready to not only reflect on a season of having been taught, but to be continuously be lived in daily life."* **Rosh Lemuel Talla Defo** - Summer in the Grove 2025

## **SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26**

# I'm interested. What should I do now?

### ***1. Let us know you're interested***

Let Luke, Abigail or Brad know you are considering being a part of the internship.

### ***2. Pray and seek wise counsel***

Take time to listen to what God has to say about your summer plans. Talk to wise counsel in your life and get their input.

### ***3. Complete the application***

Please turn it in to Luke, Abigail or Brad by May 14th.

### ***4. Turn in your deposit & prepare***

The first deposit is due by May 18th. (deposits are non-refundable)

Make plans for the rest of summer. (Secure housing, find a part-time job, if necessary, talk to Luke or Brad about getting help raising funds for the summer & help with housing, etc.)

### ***5. Ask God to prepare your heart for an amazing, life-changing summer!***

## SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26

### Application

Please complete the following application and have it turned in to Brad McKoy or Abigail McKoy by May 14th to secure your spot in the Summer in the Grove internship. A non-refundable deposit of \_\_\_\_ will be required to complete the application process if accepted. **The deposit is due by May 18th.**

Your Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Emergency Contact:

Emergency Contact Phone Number:

What is their relationship to you?

How did you hear about Summer in the Grove?

Why would you like to be a part of the Summer in the Grove Internship?

What are your expectations?

Do you already have housing or potential housing lined up for this summer? If so, where?

Are there any concerns you may have about being in Grove City this summer?

If Yes, please describe.

Do you have a job or the possibility of a part-time job, internship, or volunteer position already lined up? If so, what and where?

## **SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26**

Have you read the "social covenant" (located on last page) that the community in Grove City has agreed to walk in? Y/N

As part of coming this summer, have you agreed to walk in that 'social covenant' with us? Y/N

Do you understand that AOX is a church and you are coming to be a part of this spiritual family? Y/N

Will you have use of a car for the summer? (not required) Y/N

Do you have any allergies or medical concerns we should know about?

By signing below, you are expressing your commitment to be a part of Summer in the Grove 2026. (The SitG Team will use the commitment to prepare and plan logistics.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMER IN THE GROVE '26

### **"Social Covenant"** . . . to be the church.

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."  
Jesus, John 13:35

"Social Covenant" is the term used for the agreement together as a church community ahead of time on how we are going to walk in relationship. We actively look to the New Testament standards for behavior and conduct and have agreed to love well and care for one another's hearts in an intentionally safe environment. We ask that people who want to be a part of our church community agree with these values as well.

There are four main agreements that we as a community have made:

**1. Confrontation** - We have agreed to talk if there is an issue & do it one-on-one.

#### **...Matthew 18:15-17**

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses."

**2. Culture of Honor** - We have agreed that since we are royal sons and daughters of the King of kings, we will value and serve each other in a respectful and loving manner fitting for the King's children.

#### **...Rom 12:10**

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

**3. Accountability (out of real relationship)** - We have agreed, out of a real relationship with each other, to speak into each other's lives and grow together more and more into the likeness of Jesus until his appearing.

#### **...Hebrews 10:24**

"And let us consider how to stir up one another in love and good works..."

**4. Purity** - We have agreed to live from the pure hearts that Jesus' death and resurrection has returned us to.

#### **...1 Peter 1:22-23**

"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God."