



# **MEN'S GOLF FELLOWSHIP LEADER'S MANUAL**

**2016 EDITION**

*Growing in Faith with Golf Friends*



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# I. About Men's Golf Fellowship

## History and Structure of Men's Golf Fellowship

Men's Golf Fellowship (MGF) was founded in 2002 by Steve Silver in an effort to merge two of the loves of his life: his love of golf and his love of the Lord. He had friends in both spheres, but there was little overlap. Golf was fun, but faith was more serious. Conversations around golf were natural, spontaneous and enjoyable and new friendships were easily made. Conversations around faith were more guarded and difficult in the golfing world. These Faith friendships were more complicated and weren't as easily formed. Steve invited ten Christian friends and acquaintances to meet with him to explore how to bring these two worlds together.

What emerged from their discussions was "Men's Golf Fellowship" — a speaker program that would bring men from both spheres together in a common setting that promoted enjoyable fellowship around the combined themes of golf and faith. The idea was to have a breakfast meeting, giving men a chance to have some fellowship and hear a good presentation, before heading to the golf course. Each of the original ten men were asked to invite ten of their friends and soon MGF was on its way.

The first meeting of MGF took place at Mediterra Country Club in Naples, Florida and attracted about 100 men. Today the MGF Speaker Series, which takes place weekly each year from mid-January to mid-March at The Club Pelican Bay in Naples, includes over 1,000 men with an average weekly attendance of 200. Through the years, Men's Golf Fellowship has featured outstanding speakers. Men who have distinguished themselves in their careers are invited to speak with one simple request: "talk about your career, talk about your life and talk about your faith". Prominent professional golfers, corporate executives, political and military leaders, writers, entrepreneurs and men distinguished in other fields address the group every year and forego a remuneration.

The three things that all of the speakers have in common are: they are men, they have achieved success in varying degrees and they are comfortable in talking about their faith. It is this third factor, men talking about their faith, which is the unique strength of MGF. Attendees hear talks from men they can identify with, and men just like themselves who talk about their faith and how it has influenced their life and career.

A key step in the evolution of MGF was the decision to have the speakers' talks professionally video-taped and edited for use as discussion topics/starters by golf friends meeting together in their individual clubs (MGF Discussion Groups). These are safe and comfortable environments for men who have faith questions and a desire to participate in and contribute to heartfelt discussions about the challenges and opportunities facing them and (often) what the Bible has to say about those.

## The Purpose of Men's Golf Fellowship

In general, some men are less inclined to reflect on an often neglected subject that is so important to all of us: where we stand with God. MGF presents an opportunity to enter that arena in a safe and familiar setting. For some men it is just a matter of listening to the talk and having some friendly chatter around the breakfast table. Others hear the talk and are inspired by other men to start their own faith journey for the first time. And for still other men, MGF provides the motivation to take their faith journey to the next level. The slogan of Men's Golf Fellowship says it all: *"Growing in Faith with Golf Friends."* MGF welcomes non-golfers as well.

The purpose of Men's Golf Fellowship is to present a non-threatening, comfortable and enjoyable setting for men to hear other men talk about their life and their faith. There they have the opportunity and an example for growing in their own faith. The key words in the MGF name and in the slogan of MGF are: men, golf, fellowship, growing, faith and friends. The words suggest that it is a fun event to attend and it is. It is a Christian group, but the word "Christian" is not in the forefront when we promote MGF. The intent of MGF is to engage men of all faiths or no faith and to help them to enjoy the fellowship of others, share a meal and hear a great talk about life and faith. MGF is a "first step" for many men to begin their faith journey. It's for all men, from men of little or no faith to men of mature faith.

## II. The Discussion Groups of Men's Golf Fellowship

### The Nature of an MGF Discussion Group

If the speaker program is the first step in the MGF mission, the second step is the discussion group. The men who attend the Friday morning speaker series are typically from golf clubs all over southwest Florida. Throughout the years, many of the men in these clubs have formed discussion groups in order to discuss and go a little deeper into the life and faith issues that are of interest to them. A discussion group's average size is about 12 men and they usually meet weekly or every other week. Some groups meet seasonally, while others meet year round. Some groups are as small as 8 men while others are as large as 80. Larger groups break into smaller ones after an opening presentation is given or an MGF video is shown.

The character and format of the groups vary somewhat depending on the particular interests of the group and the style and talents of the leaders. What they all have in common is that the discussions are anchored in Christian teachings. At some point in nearly every discussion, the question is asked: "what does the Bible have to say about this?" The small group format encourages questions and the participation of most of the men. Such give and take is not possible with the larger speaker series format. Strong friendships are often formed in the smaller discussion groups because of the opportunity for deeper personal participation and sharing.

It is in the discussion groups where opportunities are provided for men to grow in their faith. That will most likely happen when the men meeting have honest faith discussions. Discussion is often generated by the video content of Friday morning speakers that has been put into a question/answer format. Equally important is having a format that makes it easy for men who want to ask faith questions to be able to do so. The discussion group is a place where men can be comfortable inviting their golf club friends and where meaningful questions can be discussed. A relaxed and safe place, like a quiet room in the club house, or a member's home is the preferred location to meet.

Again, the discussion group is not a Bible Study, although groups often look at the wisdom offered by the Bible on practical issues. It also isn't a course in religion or theology and MGF is not affiliated with any denomination. It is definitely not a group confessional. While members of the group are encouraged to take part in the discussions, participation is entirely voluntary.

Members of the group are welcome to go to any of the sessions and don't need to make an on-going commitment. The program is designed to allow participants to attend any or all sessions without feeling that they have missed something by not attending previous sessions. Out of town guests who are visiting members are very welcome to join the member in attending the group during their visit.

An important commitment that each of the men makes to each other is that all discussions remain private. As a result, levels of trust and confidence are developed over time which enhances and enriches relationships between the men.

## **First Steps When Starting an MGF Discussion Group**

An MGF discussion group will only be successful if a strong and dedicated leader is involved during its formation. Leadership can be one or two men of mature faith who have a sound understanding of the Bible. Discussion Groups are not Bible studies, but they are Bible-based and the discussion leaders need to be comfortable with anchoring discussion topics in Biblical terms. Discussion groups seem to sprout naturally from the MGF Speaker Series, but strong leadership is required to put them together. Some suggestions for prospective leaders when starting a group are:

1. Typically, groups form at private golf clubs, but they don't need to be affiliated with clubs and the concept is applicable to other groups where men know, play or work together.
2. Find at least one other person (or a team of 3-5) who has a solid faith foundation to support the start-up, including assistance with recruiting and decision making.
3. Meet with existing MGF Discussion Group leaders and learn from their experience and suggestions.
4. If possible, attend the annual MGF Leader's Forum.
5. Attend existing discussion group meetings of one or more groups to get a feel for the discussion group in action.
6. Become a regular attender of the MGF Speaker Series.
7. Obtain the most recent MGF Resource Package.
8. Request that an MGF discussion group coach be appointed to assist you and your group.
9. Review the [www.mgfnaples.com](http://www.mgfnaples.com) web site to learn more about MGF, its purposes, inspiration and mission, and to view past speaker videos.

## **Next Steps After Starting an MGF Discussion Group**

Once leadership is in place and a few prospective members have been identified, it will be time to make a wider group of men in the club aware that an MGF group is forming. Inform them regarding the nature of MGF and what the new group will look like and let them know that they are welcome to join the initial group of members.

Here are some ideas to help in getting the new group formed:

1. Let the appropriate club officials know of your intent to form an MGF group.
2. Take advantage of any assistance the club's administrative staff can offer in helping you to make membership mailings and bulletin placements to target all of the club members. [Examples of introductory meeting announcements to the full club membership or any subset thereof can be found in Appendix A.] They can also help with LCD/WIFI setup for MGF DVDs.
3. Schedule a kick-off meeting and be sure to include the group's designated coach.
4. Since it's likely that many of the men will not know each other, a large part of the first couple of meetings should be devoted to getting acquainted. Have each man tell their story – where they have lived, what they did in their careers and what they do to enjoy their leisure time.
5. Continually remind the men that “what is said in the group, stays in the group”. Until the men fully believe that and trust each other, they will never share at a deeper level.



## Next Steps After Starting an MGF Discussion Group (Continued)

6. By the second meeting you will want to get some discussion going. One of the easiest, and safest ways to do this is to use one of the discussion videos of the MGF Speaker Series. Questions are embedded in the video and very little preparation is needed on the part of the leader. [A complete listing of the questions for all of the current discussion videos is included in Appendix C.]
7. Once the group begins to meet regularly, there will be men who join the group for the first time. The leader can invite the newcomer to tell his story and then use an “ice-breaker” question to help him get to know existing group members. Examples could be: “when children, grandchildren or visitors show up, where do you typically take them” or, “tell about something funny that happened to you while playing golf, or some other sport”. Everything possible should be done to make the newcomer feel comfortable and welcome. If the leader and group members shower the newcomer with attention, it is almost guaranteed that he will return the following week.

## MGF Discussion Group Meeting Guidelines

The following twelve principles/guidelines have been developed over years of trial and error and reflect our experience regarding what works best. Following and adhering to these will increase the likelihood of a group’s ongoing success.

### ***1. Group should have a “core” group of members***

The initial organization of a small group requires a concerted effort by several men. Coordinating the logistics is a key responsibility and must be assumed by particular members of the group. Eventually, from the core group, a discussion leader may emerge.

### ***2. Discussion should be limited to approximately 10 – 20 members***

The power of the group is the development of meaningful friendships that are created through the sharing of personal experiences and perspectives. Every man attending should have the opportunity to speak on and about the topic. Too big of a group may prohibit adequate time for each member to contribute. Also, too big of a group may not promote the intimacy that makes the group effective. Some clubs will attract more men than can be accommodated in a 10-20 man discussion format. In these (fortunate) cases, a 10-15 minute topic presentation or MGF video should be given, followed by smaller “breakout” groups facilitated by core members. This format has been working very effectively for years in several larger clubs.

### ***3. Group session should last only one hour, once a week or every other week***

Even though most of the men are retired, the Group should respect that men still have time commitments, even if it is just a tee time. Budgeting just one hour a week is manageable and predictable and therefore appealing.

### ***4. Group should agree to a fixed number of weeks to meet”***

Every routine, even though appealing, needs a vacation. A seasonal community makes the “break” natural. A specified period also makes the initial commitment to the group more palatable for men who are unsure whether they will find the group as beneficial as they had hoped.

## **MGF Discussion Group Meeting Guidelines (Cont)**

### **5. Group must agree to total confidentiality**

Effective group dynamics inspires personal and honest sharing. Group members must be confident as they develop greater personal relationships with other members that what they share is never repeated outside the group.

### **7. Group should never refer to or discuss religious doctrine**

Religious tradition and dogma of religious denominations and sects should never be “promoted” by any member of the group. Discussion of denominational doctrine or beliefs can polarize the group members.

### **8. Group should avoid the discussion of politics**

Although it may seem the group has a similar political leaning, politics always carries a risk of offending someone in the group. Politics would seldom be an issue of the presented topic.

### **9. All members should avoid “preaching”**

The group should be a forum for members to share their thoughts and feelings. It is not an opportunity for a member to attempt to convince or convert fellow members. Pontificating also carries the risk of “talking down” to the members of the group.

### **10. No member should dominate discussion**

All members must understand that what other members have to say is valuable to them and the group. Participation of all should be encouraged. One opinion is not more valuable than the next. Courtesy should prevail.

### **11. Members should be encouraged to “come when you can”**

Members should be welcomed whenever they are free to attend. The discussion one week is not dependent on the discussion of the previous week.

### **12. Group members should not use the group forum for fundraising**

MGF does not undertake fundraising for its support. The group should not be a forum for raising funds for a member’s personal charities. Pressure to contribute could make members of the group uncomfortable.

## **Profile of a Successful MGF Discussion Group Leader**

The following MGF club leader profile has been found to produce the most successful groups:

1. The prospective leader will sometimes be one of the centers of influence in their club.
2. He will have an evangelical heart, but will be highly seeker-sensitive. (He won’t force the Gospel on his group).
3. He will value the “first touch” nature of MGF groups (discussion vs Bible study).
4. He will be a good listener and will value the current state of each man’s journey.
5. He will have a willingness and ability to dedicate the required amount of time.
6. He will be receptive to coaching from the MGF Planning Team.
7. He will be an example of one who has a strong, growing Christian faith.
8. He will be an encourager; one who prays for his group and knows what is going on in the lives of the members.
9. He will be a cheerleader; affirming the values and vision of MGF, while watching for, and celebrating actual life-transformation in the group.

10. He will be aware of the spiritual needs of the members, and be watching for appropriate resources to provide for the group.
11. He will be willing to share leadership with others in the group and will be humble enough to identify and mentor a back-up leader to shepherd the group when he is not available. If he doesn't have a reliable back-up, the group will simply not meet and that will be the beginning of a struggling group.
12. He will be receptive to aligning with other MGF club leaders for cross-learning and encouragement.
13. Groups that are closed to new members often stagnate and die. A successful leader will encourage the group to welcome new members and will see growth as a good thing. The result will be new ideas, new potential leaders and new excitement in the group. If the group becomes too large to effectively maintain the intimacy of the group, the group can adopt the "breakout group" format discussed in #2 of the Meeting Guidelines section above, and elsewhere in this manual.

## **Discussion Group Topics and Materials**

Discussion topics are a matter of personal choice and the particular make-up of the discussion group. The group leader will propose discussion topics, books to read, or themes to consider and ask for input and suggestions from the group. MGF Speaker Series presentations have been edited for use in small groups. These are typically about 15 minutes in length, and include embedded discussion questions. These questions are listed in Appendix C in alphabetical order of speakers. Following are some topic planning suggestions:

1. Use past MGF Speaker Series videos. This is an excellent way to get started because it is easy and there is little preparation necessary. You turn it on, watch the video and begin the discussion. The videos have been edited to 15-17 minutes for discussion purposes, which includes specific questions for discussion. The videos and discussion questions can be sourced by way of streaming directly from the MGF website or by playing the DVDs supplied in the MGF Resource Package .
2. Read books together for weekly discussion. Examples might be: *Mere Christianity* by C S Lewis, *Golf's Sacred Journey*, by Dr. David Cook, *In His Grip*, by Wally Armstrong & Jim Sheard, and *The Prayer of Jabez*, by Bruce Wilkinson.
3. Tackling "Life Issues", which can be a vibrant source of discussion topics. Just a few of many examples are: Marriage, children, retirement, money, addictions, life's purpose, career challenges and relationships.
4. Exploring "Faith Issue" questions is another rich source of discussion ideas: How do we pray, having a personal relationship with the Lord, forgiveness, pride, faith vs good deeds, how do we finish our lives strong, what is the next step in our faith journey, and success vs significance.
5. Reading Bible verses, chapters or books is another option for discussion.
6. Sometimes, discussions will start off on one topic and end on another. This is often how new discussion topics of interest to the group members are discovered.



## III. Maturing the Group

### Agenda or Format for a Discussion Group Meeting

What actually happens in any particular discussion group can vary somewhat from other groups, depending on the style of the leader and the make-up and interests of the group. Nevertheless, consider using some of the following ideas:

1. Most groups start and end the meeting with a prayer, often by different men who are asked and are comfortable praying in public, or just someone who volunteers. The prayer may give thanks for the gathering, ask for God's help in guiding the group discussion and offer petitions for members or their families for situations that are a concern.
2. Often a leader will start the meeting with an open question like: "so what is going on in your life?" or "does anyone have anything they want to share with the group?" Men are encouraged to share any question or problem they may have with a life or faith issue and to throw it out to the group for help or insight. Men can also be asked to share personal news with the group, so that the men stay informed and supportive.
3. For most groups it is common practice to validate their discussions by checking to see what the Bible has to say about a particular matter. The leader and members are not expected to be walking Bible encyclopedias, so deferring the answer to the following week is perfectly acceptable.
4. Group members other than the leader can be asked to volunteer to lead a discussion on a topic of their choice. This keeps the meeting fresh, promotes broader involvement and helps reveal the talents and interests of the group members.
5. Once the group has been established for a while, the members may feel comfortable challenging each other to weekly goals, or some form of accountability regarding issues a member might be struggling with.
6. There has to be complete trust and confidentiality and so it is imperative that what is said in the discussion group, stays in the group. There can be no exceptions. The leader should remind members of this important principle at nearly every meeting.

### Size of the Group

The ideal size of a discussion group is about 8-12 men, but some groups have grown to be as many as 20 and still seem to function well at that level. Even groups as small as 3-5 function just fine if all men are in regular attendance. Smaller groups can be more intimate, allowing men to be comfortable opening up and being vulnerable with their feelings. However, if a group is too small the members may be missing out on the wide variety of ideas that come from a group of 8-12 men.

## **Size of the Group (Continued)**

When a group has grown to beyond 20 men, the format might change from being a discussion involving most of the men to more of a teaching style, where the leader does most of the talking. In order to ensure that all of the men have an opportunity to share thoughts they may have relative to the subject, larger groups should consider breaking into sub-groups of 5-7 men when the leader has finished his presentation of the material.

## **When, Where and How Long to Meet**

Group leaders, in consultation with the group members, need to decide on the questions of when, where and how long to meet. Some discussion groups meet in the morning, some in the evening. Some meet for one hour, some meet longer. Some meet every week, year round, while others meet for only three or four months during the season. Most MGF discussion groups meet at their clubs, but private homes, a community clubhouse, a condominium common room or a convenient restaurant are also options. Some groups play golf after the discussion group meeting. Only the group can determine what best meets the needs of the members.

## **Things Which Can Cause a Group to Fail**

Having invested all of the time and energy that it takes to get a group established, the last thing we want is to see the group fall apart for reasons that could have been avoided. A good MGF group leader will therefore be constantly watching for anything that could de-rail the group. These are some of the things which could cause this to happen:

1. Things can get stale. Perhaps the leader has become tired and isn't spending enough time in his preparation. Or, maybe the group has made a poor choice of discussion material and the men are losing interest.
2. Even if the group is working with good discussion material, don't let the series go on for too long. Vary the materials and keep the meetings interesting and somewhat unpredictable, in a good way.
3. Personality conflicts can occur. The leader should resolve the issue quickly, if at all possible. He shouldn't ignore the situation. It will often only get worse.
4. Avoid discussion of topics where personal bias can get in the way of purpose, such as theology, politics, world problems, alternative life styles, etc. Often these damaging comments can begin with a careless joke. The leader should be alert to the first indication that the discussion is veering into dangerous territory and re-direct the discussion to be more constructive.
5. Sometimes one of the men will begin to dominate the discussion. When that happens the leader should speak to the man in private. He could explain that the leader values the input of the offending person, but that he is concerned that others aren't getting a chance to participate. The leader could even ask the offender to help him to get others involved in the conversation, thereby making him feel important to the group.

6. There can be challenges to leadership. One solution could be a sharing of leadership if personalities permit doing that. The group's assigned coach may be in the best position to suggest a solution that the whole group is happy with. But it is important to remember that changes to leadership must come from within the group itself.
7. Opinions may conflict regarding discussion topics. Groups need access to variety. With variety it is more likely that the leader can satisfy the needs of all of the group members. If disagreements over discussion materials is a problem, the leader should consult with his assigned coach and with other group leaders to get new discussion ideas.

## **Other Suggestions**

1. Communicating by email is an efficient and effective way to keep the group connected. Meeting notices can be sent a few days in advance, mentioning the discussion topic and providing any background information or "homework" assignment needed to prepare for the discussion. Also, men can be encouraged to share via email any thoughts that come to mind after the discussion has taken place. [A sample of e-mailed meeting reminders can be found in Appendix B.]
2. Groups are encouraged to get together casually outside of the group meeting to help increase bonding of both men and families. Golf, dinner, boating, movies, etc., along with activities that include families, are all worthwhile ways to fortify the group. Some groups have begun to incorporate service projects in and around the community as well. When children or grandchildren are included, it becomes a great teaching opportunity for young people who may not have participated in other service projects.
3. The skills required in being an effective discussion leader can be studied from a variety of sources. If you have little experience in leading discussions, a review of the fundamentals is a good idea. Your MGF Coach or other group leaders are other great resources. Then, ask for God's help, get started, and your confidence and style will improve week by week.
4. With all email communications to the group's members consider including something like the following along the bottom of the email, like a footer, together with a link to the MGF website:

*Men's Golf Fellowship— Growing in Faith With Golf Friends*





## IV. Serving The Club Community

Three words capture the purpose of Men's Golf Fellowship: *Presence, Christ and Community*. The presence of Christ is cultivated and reflected in MGF discussion groups. However, there are those in the broader club community who are hurting physically, in family trials, and even in death. Discussion group members can give them a call, drop a hand-written note, or personally drop by to see them with their permission. On behalf of the group we can assure them of prayer support. We are there for them.

An illustration of this principle took place in one MGF discussion group recently. An attendee had been battling cancer for several years. He passed away recently. The family requested that one of the group's men conduct the funeral. He was happy to do that. Twelve of the group's men traveled hundreds of miles to attend and support the family. The word spread throughout the club community that Men's Fellowship was there in a time of trial.

Another incident surfaced recently. A man in an MGF club community is terminally ill. He does not attend the MGF discussion group. A group member heard about his condition and placed a telephone call to convey his concern. At the end of the call, he prayed with him over the telephone. The man was thrilled and grateful.

MGF discussion group members are faithfully there for each other. Yet, the genius of the Christian community takes this life-on-life influence outside the group. Whether it's other residents, the club management or employees who serve us in golf, dining, grounds, or other areas—we constantly seek to reach out to them.

None of these relationships happen without a common relationship with Jesus. He provided the greatest example of serving others without exception. It is He we represent. Our purpose is to honor Him. May He enable us to be creative witnesses for Him within our club communities.



## Appendix A

### Examples of Introductory Meeting Invitations

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## INTRODUCTORY MEETING

A focus group has formed to explore the possibility of starting Men's Golf Fellowship at (Club Name). Men's Golf Fellowship was birthed in Naples in 2002 with the goal of engaging men in discussion groups to explore their spiritual journeys and important life issues facing them at this stage of life. Some of us are in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and retired from successful careers. What should our lives look like in retirement? Guys may be in the sweet spot of life, struggling with unforeseen issues or somewhere in between. Many clubs have started chapters and men are gathering to learn, share and grow together.

Let's talk about...

- What would you do if you lost it all?
- Have you even wrestled with forgiving yourself?
- What kind of relationships do you have in your family... wife, kids and siblings? Are you satisfied?
- How are you investing your time, talents, and resources? What's your ROI?
- Do you feel your life has purpose? What is it?
- What happens when you die?
- The list is endless ...

Learn more about Men's Golf Fellowship at [mgfnaples.com](http://mgfnaples.com)

**Focus Group Leaders: (Leadership Team Names & Numbers)**

## Appendix A (Continued)

### Examples of Introductory Meeting Invitations

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#### WELCOME BACK!

For each of the last ten winter seasons, more than fifty (Club Name) men have met in fellowship each Tuesday morning. We look forward to seeing many of you return in the new year. We also look forward to welcoming new men who are interested in a weekly exchange with their fellow members, discussing the challenges and opportunities we all face in daily living.

#### WHAT IT IS

One of the special qualities about (Club Name) is the sense of community we all share. Men's Golf Fellowship of (Club Name), which had its start ten seasons ago, has played a vital role in building community by providing the men of (Club Name) with an opportunity to meet on a regular basis to make new friendships, deepen relationships and listen to thoughtful perspectives on the challenges and opportunities we face in our lives. This is accomplished through video or live presentations to the entire group. Generally, the presentations are followed by small group discussions where we delve further into the topic of the day by sharing relevant life experiences, thoughts and ideas. Group discussions remain private and over time a level of trust and confidence is developed that enhances and enriches the relationships between participants.

#### WHAT IT IS NOT

Men's Golf Fellowship is not a Bible Study, although Biblical references are often part of the presentations and discussions. It is not a course in religion or theology. It is not a group confessional. While you are encouraged to participate in the group discussions, there is no pressure for you to share. It is non-denominational. Everyone is invited whether you have a religious affiliation or not.

#### WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT THIS SEASON?

This season our focus is on "Men Who Care In A Care-less World." This topic promises to inspire us all as we discuss how we can enrich lives by truly caring for others. Sessions will illustrate how we can improve our lives, our families and others by demonstrating spiritual, emotional and physical care through listening for needs, prayer, service and more. One session will focus on the famous story of the Good Samaritan, where the Samaritan generously lived by the principle "what's mine is yours and I'm happy to share it."

## WHO IS THE GROUP LEADER?

Men's Golf Fellowship of (Club Name) have been led by fellow club members (Discussion Leader Names) .

## WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE/LOGISTICS

This season we will again meet on (DAY) mornings, beginning on (DATE) and run through (DATE). All sessions will be from (TIME) in the (Club Room Name), except ON (DATE). It will start at (TIME) with breakfast and will be in the Main Dining Room of the Clubhouse. This is a great way to catch up with your friends and meet new neighbors. Breakfast will simply be billed to your account.

## MUST I ATTEND ALL SESSIONS?

You are welcome to come to any of the sessions without feeling you need to make an on-going commitment. The program is designed to allow you to attend individual sessions without feeling that you have missed something by not having attended previous sessions. We are happy to have out of town guests who are visiting you come as well. We also invite wives for at least one special session.

## WHAT MUST I DO IF I PLAN ON ATTENDING?

We sincerely hope that you will join us for the first session on January 6th. We do need an RSVP if you plan to come to breakfast. Please RSVP to (Name) at the Clubhouse by (DATE). You are more than welcome to attend any or all the additional sessions through March, without a reservation. It's a wonderful way to make new friends and enrich our lives!

## WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

List of Leader Names & Numbers



## Appendix B

### Examples of E-Mailed Meeting Reminders

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#### MEN'S GOLF FELLOWSHIP OF (CLUB NAME)

A group of about 40 men from (Club Name) have been meeting together during the winter months for the last nine years with the purpose of deepening our friendships away from the golf course while discussing many of the challenges that men face today. We use our experiences to promote learning and sharing around topics important to men using the Bible as a guide in a nondenominational context. We plan to begin a new 12 week series beginning on Thursday January 8, 2015 and ending on March 26, 2015. The weekly topics will center on opportunities to achieve a productive and fulfilling life.

We would like to invite to you to share in our Thursday sessions beginning at (Time & Date). Bring a friend with you as we would like to see our group grow in 2015. The weekly gatherings are open to all (CLUB NAME) members as well as all in the Naples Community. Be assured that the whole program is designed so you can come to any or all of the sessions as your schedule permits. If you have further question, please contact any of the committee that is listed below.

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#### MEN'S GOLF FELLOWSHIP OF (CLUB NAME)

The topic of this week's discussion group is BUCKET LISTS. Do you remember the 2008 movie of the same title starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman? They were terminally ill cancer patients who break out of the hospital to live their last days to the fullest – pursuing goals such as playing poker in Monte Carlo, eating tons of caviar, driving race cars etc. - goals to accomplish before they kicked the bucket.

We will be discussing our bucket lists from past days and bucket lists in our futures whether those goals are financial, relationships, travel, achievements or any other matter. We will be looking at those in light of timeframes – what if we had only one day, one year or one decade before we kicked the bucket.

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#### MEN'S GOLF FELLOWSHIP OF (CLUB NAME)

I hope by now you have placed (Date) on your calendar for our second official meeting of Men's Golf Fellowship. We plan on having a new MGF DVD to view with a discussion time afterward. We want you to invite others whom you think would benefit from this fellowship.

As we begin this new journey please keep in mind the following: As men, we need to know and spend time with other men. We need to be encouraged and sharpened by like-minded guys who are sharing the journey with us. We need to get to know each other, begin to trust each other and ultimately to want the best for each other. I believe this is critical for our own health as Christian men, as well as the health of our friendships, marriages, families, and church.





## Appendix C

### MGF Speaker Video Discussion Questions

MGF Speaker Presentations Edited for Discussion Groups, 2012-2015		
<b>Brad Anderson</b>	<b>1</b>	Is there a similarity between Brad's discovery of intense customer focus and Jesus' example of servant leadership?
1-Mar-13		
Time: 13:08	<b>2</b>	Jesus' parables teach compassion, generosity, forgiveness, honesty, hard work and wise investment. How can these qualities be useful in a business career?
	<b>3</b>	Comment on Brad's thought that in God's eyes the CEO and the least paid employee are of equal worth.
	<b>4</b>	Read <a href="#">Isaiah 30:21</a> and comment on God's provision of guiding principles for our lives.
<b>Gordon Brewer</b>	<b>1</b>	Golf's highest awards reward outstanding personal characteristics. How does this parallel a Christian's walk?
25-Jan-13		
Time: 12:34	<b>2</b>	What influences in Gordon's life have strengthened his faith?
	<b>3</b>	Gordon talks about character traits like discipline, integrity and humbleness. Why are these important to a Christian man? <a href="#">Titus 2:6-8</a>
<b>David Cook</b>	<b>1</b>	Have you ever achieved some success or victory that you later realized didn't satisfy?
17-Jan-14		
Time: 16:40	<b>2</b>	Where do you want to go in your stage of life?
	<b>3</b>	What does it look like 20 minutes before the trophy celebration in your stage of life?
	<b>4</b>	What pressure do you experience in your stage of life?
	<b>5</b>	How have trials in your life, if not joyful, proven to be at least fruitful or useful to you?
	<b>6</b>	In all honesty, what do you fear?
	<b>7</b>	Have you ever trusted someone when you had doubts about them?
	<b>8</b>	Has God ever accomplished something through you that was clear wouldn't have happened without Him?
<b>Bob Doll</b>		Theme is "Seven Life Lessons"
Time: 17:22	<b>1</b>	Focus on the best at the expense of the good
	<b>2</b>	Live a heart-motivated life
	<b>3</b>	Get a grasp on the brevity of life
	<b>4</b>	Remember, it's not about you
	<b>5</b>	It's not about the circumstances that define us, but how we react to circumstances
	<b>6</b>	God seeks to satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts
	<b>7</b>	Live a life of worship
<b>John Edwardson</b>	<b>1</b>	When we are faithful and generous in our giving, it helps others. But how are we affected? <a href="#">Luke 6:38</a>
18-Jan-13		
Time: 16:00	<b>2</b>	Have you ever had a situation where you felt God was speaking to you through another person?
	<b>3</b>	What opportunities have you taken advantage of to step out of your comfort zone and what were the results?
	<b>4</b>	What types of burdens is Jesus offering to take off our shoulders, and why? <a href="#">Matthew 11:28-30</a>
<b>Wayne</b>	<b>1</b>	Have you ever lived in the shadow of your parents' successes or failures?
<b>Huizenga, Jr.</b>	<b>2</b>	What is it about wealth that blinds us to what is really important?
11-Jan-13		
Time: 24:01	<b>3</b>	Who have been the "Captain Brads" along your faith journey? <a href="#">Matthew 6:19-21</a>
	<b>4</b>	When did you realize that God had a plan for your life?
	<b>5</b>	What is true wealth and what are treasures in heaven? <a href="#">Colossians 1:27</a>
	<b>6</b>	How can we look past the money and see what God wants us to see? <a href="#">Proverbs 3:9-10</a>
<b>Dale Jones</b>	<b>1</b>	Do you agree with Dale's statement that 1) Fame is like a vapor, 2) Popularity comes by accident, 3) Wealth takes wings and flies away and 4) Character never dies?
6-Feb-15		
Time: 11:41	<b>2</b>	Have you ever had a "failed run" in your life?
	<b>3</b>	Have you ever felt that what you did (or what you do) professionally defines you?
	<b>4</b>	Have you ever been bored in retired life?
	<b>5</b>	Have you ever done something that might be considered by some to be menial but that was very rewarding to you?
	<b>6</b>	Can you relate to C. S. Lewis' words that "God whispers to us in our pleasure, he speaks in our conscience, but he shouts in our pain?"
	<b>7</b>	Do you find that Men's Golf Fellowship provides the comfort, friendship, peers and mentoring in the faith that Dales speaks of?
	<b>8</b>	Do you, or have you ever, given yourself to some cause?
	<b>9</b>	How do we keep "ethically fresh" in this stage of our lives?

## Appendix D (Continued)

### MGF Speaker Video Discussion Questions

<b>Randy Kington</b> 31-Jan-14 Time: 18:41	1	What sacrifices have you ever made for your country? Would you be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for your country? Under what Circumstances?
	2	What sacrifices have you ever made for your family? Would you be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for your family? Under what Circumstances?
	3	What sacrifices have you ever made for God? Would you be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for God? Under what Circumstances?
<b>Murray Martin</b> Time: 18:50	1	Faith is foundational in life and business
	2	Hard work is required
	3	With humility and confidence you are capable of doing anything
	4	What will you leave behind and where are you going?
<b>Josh McDowell</b> 22-Feb-13 Time: 23:29	1	Is fulfilled prophesy a valid test of the Bible's truthfulness?
	2	What is your reaction to the realization that so many prophecies pointed to Jesus as the Messiah?
	3	Comment on the specific factors that finally led Josh to accept Christ as his Savior.
	4	Have you ever had a difficult time forgiving someone for something they've done which has hurt you?
	5	What consequences have you experienced from an event in your past?
	6	How does Men's Golf Fellowship provide opportunities to closely connect with other men?
<b>Larry Moody</b> 8-Mar-13 Time: 18:25	1	Larry counsels men who want to be winners by quoting <a href="#">Philippians 3:3-9</a> , which says that our credentials are no better than rubbish. What point is he making?
	2	What's wrong with dwelling on our past successes? Doesn't that motivate us?
	3	When our circumstances are making us anxious, specifically how do we turn things over to God?
	4	Tom Lehman sings to himself. What are some "good thoughts" that you could use to fill your head when facing stressful times?
<b>David Nixon</b> 24-Jan-14 Time: 18:06	1	Have you ever had a dream where, despite your best efforts, seemed to be out of reach?
	2	Can you recall an area of your life where you needed to get out of God's way and let Him take charge?
	3	What is different about faith-based films that would make a fire fighter stand up in a theater and ask for prayer?
	4	What movies have you seen that touched your heart in a special way?
<b>Tom Randall/</b>		Theme is "Influence"
<b>Bernhard Langer</b> Time: 16:50	1	Our influence can affect future generations
	2	Negative influences are unavoidable
	3	Spontaneous opportunities to influence others
	4	Recognize your specific areas of influence
	5	Many will reject positive influence
	6	You may be uniquely positioned to exert an influence
	7	How do you use your influence?
	8	Influence of the Holy Spirit
<b>Tom Randall and Tom Lehman</b> 14-Feb-13 Time: 22:58	1	Have you ever done anything in your life that no one, or very few have ever done?
	2	What circumstance in your life has caused the most pressure for you to deal with?
	3	Is going into debt a bad idea?
	4	What is a situation in your life where you had to make an ethical decision with no "right" answer?
	5	Has God ever shown you a "bigger picture" in a situation in your life?
	6	Have you ever felt insignificant in a situation in your life?
	7	Who has been a catalyst in your faith journey?
	8	Do you believe in your God-given gifts and abilities?
	9	Have you ever wrestled with forgiving yourself?

## Appendix D (Continued)

### MGF Speaker Video Discussion Questions

<b>Jonathan Reckford</b> 9-Jan-15 Time: 18:36	1	If our purpose in being on earth is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, what could that look like in each of our lives?
	2	Has anyone ever come along side you to help you in your faith journey? Or, have you ever had the opportunity to assist others in that way?
	3	Have you, or do you know anyone who has ever experienced what Jonathan describes as "holy discontent"?
	4	Have you ever made decisions in your life that reflect the idea of "moving from success to significance"?
	5	Have you ever had a greater sense of God's presence and leading during a tough trial?
	6	Jonathan says that we express our love for God now by how we treat the world's poor, yet Jesus tells us that we will always have the poor among us. Are those contradictory statements?
<b>Ralph Reed</b> Time: 14:25	1	Calling over Career
	2	Testimony over Title
	3	Significance over Success
<b>Steve Robinson</b> 6-Mar-15 Time: 25:06	1	What is the "gospel of grace" that Steve refers to, versus the implied "gospel of performance"?
	2	Has charitable giving ever been a point of conflict in your marriage?
	3	How do competency, character and chemistry apply to our lives as individuals?
	4	Do you ever think about why we exist as individuals?
	5	Does the Chick-fil-A corporate purpose have relevancy to our lives as individuals: "Glorify God by being a faithful steward of all this is entrusted to us and have a positive influence on all that we come into contact with"?
	6	Have you ever thought you weren't smart enough, or weren't equipped in some other way to accomplish something, but God provided the enablement?
	7	What major unplanned milestones have occurred in your life?
	8	Who has been a role model for you in the past? Who has flown on your wingtip in the past?
	9	How would you like to be remembered?
<b>Jim Towey</b> 1-Feb-13 Time: 15:24	1	How did Mother Teresa change Jim Towey's life in ways that you can relate to in your own life?
	2	Comment on this lesson learned from Mother Teresa: The importance of prayer
	3	Comment on this lesson learned from Mother Teresa: Love until it hurts
	4	Comment on this lesson learned from Mother Teresa: Keep your eye on the final destination
<b>Mike Whan</b> Time: 13:00		There are no talking points for this presentation, just a scripture verse to be considered: Revelation 3:20, which says "Here I am. I stand at the door and knock".
		The question that is implied and not shown is "What knocks have occurred in your life and how did you respond to them?"
<b>Mark Whitacre</b> <b>Part 1</b> 7-Feb-14 Time: 14:15	1	Have you ever owned or wanted to own material things that in retrospect you saw as excessive?
	2	Do you remember in your career cases of improper activity that some justified by saying "Everyone is doing it"?
	3	Has your wife ever appropriately pointed out anything in your life that you were blind to, but later recognized needed to change?
	4	In your career have you ever had to admit to a bad decision you made - even if not illegal?"
	5	Can you think of an example where your wife's intuition, wisdom or sensitivity opened your eyes to something that you didn't recognize?
	6	Can you think of a time in your life when, if not obsessed, you were overly attentive to something that blinded you to what God's plan was?
	7	Have you or anyone you know ever thought about, or done anything irrational as a result of the pressure in your/their life?
<b>Mark Whitacre</b> <b>Part 2</b> 7-Feb-14 Time: 16:23	1	Have you ever turned down an opportunity that you later regretted turning down?
	2	Who has come alongside you with support during a difficult circumstance in your life?
	3	Who has watered the seeds of your faith (mentored you) during your spiritual journey?
	4	How has your family sacrificed for you?
	5	Have you ever received help from an unexpected source?
	6	Have you ever had to rebuild or reestablish your credibility in some way?
	7	Have you had a very negative experience in your life that later yielded a positive result?
		Have you ever considered that like Mark Whitacre recorded his colleagues, God is in essence recording our lives? But, unlike Mark, He is recording our thoughts as well as our words and deeds for later rewards in heaven. The punishment for our sins has been laid on our Savior - Jesus Christ.