



# **Men's Golf Fellowship**

## ***FELLOWSHIP GROUP LEADER MANUAL***

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Cor. 5:17

*Growing in Faith with Golf Friends*



# MGF Fellowship Group Leader's Manual

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# **I. About Men's Golf Fellowship**

## **THE MGF MISSION**

### **What is Men's Golf Fellowship?**

Men's Golf Fellowship (MGF) was formed in 2003 to help address the spiritual needs of golf friends. Our friends are open to learning about a personal relationship with God, and want to explore questions related to their faith, but don't necessarily have a forum to do so. MGF provides that opportunity.

### **What is Our Mission?**

Our mission is to create opportunities for golf friends throughout the country to help each other make Christ the central part of their personal and professional lives. Our motto, *Growing in Faith With Golf Friends*, captures our mission.

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## **MGF IN SUMMARY**

Some of our golf friends are less inclined to reflect on an often-neglected subject that is important to all of us: where we stand with God. Men's Golf Fellowship provides a comfortable and enjoyable setting for friends to hear each other talk about their life and faith, and to grow personally and spiritually in the process. While we are a Christian organization, the intent of MGF is to engage all men—from men of little or no faith to men of mature faith—to help them enjoy the fellowship of others. MGF is often a "first step" for men to begin their faith journey. Knowing this, we consider MGF a "First Touch" ministry and have designed our approach accordingly. We welcome all men, golfers or not.

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## **HOW MGF CAME TO BE**

Men's Golf Fellowship was founded in 2003 by Steve Silver in an effort to merge two of the passions 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, and weren't as easily

formed. Steve invited ten Christian golf friends and acquaintances to meet with him to explore how to bring these worlds together.

What emerged from their discussions was *Men's Golf Fellowship*—a 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 from someone with whom the men could relate. 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 in Naples, Florida and attracted about 100 men. Today Men's Golf Fellowship includes many men in MGF chapters around the country, with new chapters starting each year.

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 in other fields address our chapters yearly.

Two things that all of the speakers have in common are: They have achieved success in varying degrees; and they are comfortable in talking about their faith. It is this second factor, men talking about their faith, which is the unique strength of MGF.

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 Fellowship Groups). These are safe and comfortable environments for men who have faith questions and a desire to participate in and contribute to hearing discussions about the challenges and opportunities facing them and how their faith can play a role.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MGF chapters are guided by a few simple principles:

**We engage a “first touch” approach**— Knowing that MGF is a “first step” for many of our friends in exploring a personal relationship with Christ, we are sensitive to where they are in all that we do.

**All men are welcome**—Whether or not they are golfers.

**MGF is a safe place**—“*What is said here stays here.*”

**We meet in neutral ground**—Country clubs and other quiet and private settings.

**We are self-sustaining**—There are no dues or fees to be a “member,” and we don’t proactively seek donations. What support we do receive comes from unsolicited offers to help.

**We are a movement**—We view MGF more as a *movement*, than as formal organization with many rules, regulations and protocols.

**All our leadership comes from our ranks**—While some church leaders and pastors may attend, they are not the leaders of any MGF chapters and don’t lead MGF Fellowship Groups.

**We are all volunteer**—While leadership is essential, no one in MGF receives compensation.

## WHAT WE ARE

MGF creates a place where guys can just be. No one cares about your credentials. Here guys can grow in friendship with others, share their stories, their personal challenges, their lives. It is where a guy can process where he is and bring better perspective to his life.

If you were to ask what is the **DNA** of MGF, it is really all about **life stories**—simply, that MGF encourages men to share their personal journey.

By now it should be clear that MGF is very much about finding your identity and your identity is not what you do or did for a living. MGF is not about performance. It is about who you are as a man.

We have seen that as a man grows in strong friendships, as he can be transparent and trusted, and has a growing relationship with the Lord—he has obtained the essential essence of a life well-lived for the Lord.

MGF chapters are focused on helping men to know who they are and encouraging them to grow in their faith.

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## WHAT WE ARE NOT

Some folks have found it instructive to consider what MGF is **NOT**:

***We are not a men's program from a church or any denomination.***

***We are not a Bible Study***—although many MGF men do read the Bible, and scripture is often referenced to illuminate our conversations.

***We are not a prayer meeting***—although we encourage men to pray with and for each other.

***We are not a counseling service***—although there is no doubt we have many stories of guys' lives being changed for the better.

## THE VALUES WE HOLD CLOSE

MGF has been inspired and steadied by a commitment to certain **Core Values**:

**“First Touch” Approach**—A treasured attribute of MGF is that we engage together with one common purpose...*to grow in faith with golf friends*. This entails involving men of varying levels of exposure to, perspective on and experience with Christianity. Thus, we are sensitive to ensuring that the language we use and the conversations we have are comfortable and productive for all, and by no means exclude any.

**Friendship**—Friendship for MGF is really the start of a journey of faith to a kind of wholeness that is, at once, discovery and transformation—deepening friendship with other men and with Jesus.

**Safety & Trust**—MGF is a safe place where we *figure it out, support each other and talk things through*. What is said at MGF stays at MGF.

**Authenticity & Vulnerability**—Authenticity is being honest about where you are. Vulnerability goes one step farther and allows other guys into your life and invites their involvement. It is permission to speak into your life.

**By Men, For Men**—At MGF, we prefer to talk about our fears, failures, problems and breakthroughs with other men who know exactly what we’re going through and are encouraging.

**Family Relationships As Primary**—In MGF, we believe that our effectiveness as husbands, fathers, sons and grandfathers informs and influences all other relationships. While often the hardest to figure out and get “right,” we place a lot of emphasis on helping each other become successful in these *primary* relationships.

**Humility Above All**—We have yet to meet a man in MGF where *pride* isn’t their greatest enemy. In MGF, we seek to recognize and break down pride in ourselves by discussing its many manifestations in our lives, and how we’re addressing and overcoming it—and in so doing enhance all of our relationships.



## HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO

Men's Golf Fellowship consists of Chapters and Fellowship Groups. **Chapters** are structured geographically (cities or regions around the country) and entail a leadership team committed to maintaining MGF's "guiding principles" and "core values." **Fellowship Groups** are smaller groups within chapters, which meet regularly in members' clubs or in other private/comfortable settings. Following are brief descriptions of both.

### **MGF Chapters**

MGF chapters are the heartbeat of what we do. These are where men meet at scheduled intervals to hear a live or videotaped MGF speaker who shares a personal story that challenges and gives insight into the kinds of real-life situations many men are facing. A breakfast or other meal is almost always a part of the chapter meeting.

Chapter meetings are a place where guys enjoy each other's company and begin to learn how to support each other when and where it matters most. They are where men come to recognize a greater need for others and for the Lord.

For more information about MGF Chapters, refer to the *MGF Chapter Playbook*. The balance of this manual addresses leading MGF Fellowship Groups.

### **MGF Fellowship Groups**

When MGF chapters get going, something unique happens: smaller groups of golf friends experience a deeper level of caring for each other. MGF chapter leaders encourage these smaller clusters of "golf friends" to meet in **Fellowship Groups**.

It is within these more intimate groups of guys (perhaps 8 - 12 men) that one really gets close-knit. They meet on a regular basis and use MGF videos/discussion materials, or other resources to facilitate their conversations. Fellowship Groups are for men who pursue being authentic and who want others to hold them to that standard. It is here that the walls break down, more meaningful friendships come together, and stronger faith formation takes place.

Some chapters choose to conduct larger Fellowship Group meetings of 20-30 men, thereby effectively combining their Chapter meeting with their Fellowship Group meeting. This is a perfectly fine "hybrid" approach that can work well.

## **II. Organizing MGF Fellowship Groups**

### ***Nature of a Fellowship Group***

MGF Fellowship Groups are the best place for men to grow in their faith. That will happen when the meetings have honest faith discussions. Discussion is often generated by the video content of MGF breakfast/banquet speakers, facilitated by MGF-prepared discussion guides around those talks. A relaxed and safe place, like a quiet room in a club house, or a member's home is the preferred location to meet.

A Fellowship 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 (although we are unapologetically Christian). 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 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 a Fellowship Group***

An MGF Fellowship 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. (See "Fellowship Group Leader Profile" below). Although Discussion Groups are not Bible studies, they are Bible-based and the discussion leaders need to be comfortable with anchoring discussion topics in Biblical terms. Fellowship Groups sprout naturally from the MGF Chapter breakfasts/banquets, 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 startup, including assistance with recruiting and decision-making.
3. Meet with existing MGF Fellowship Group leaders and learn from their experience and suggestions.
5. Attend existing MGF Fellowship Group meetings of one or more groups to get a feel for the group in action.
6. Become a regular attender of the MGF Chapter breakfasts/banquets.
7. Become familiarized with the MGF Fellowship Group Leader's Manual.
8. Request that an MGF Fellowship group coach be appointed to assist you and your group.
9. Review the [www.mensgolffellowshp.com](http://www.mensgolffellowshp.com) web site to learn more about MGF—its purposes, inspiration and mission; and to view discussion resources.

### ***Fellowship Group Leader Profile***

- Influence in club and works well with others.
- A heart to reach men for Christ, but seeker-sensitive.
- Values “first touch” nature of MGF groups.
- Good listener—values each man’s current journey.
- Willingness and ability to dedicate time.
- Receptive to coaching from MGF advisors.
- Willing to share leadership with others in the group.
- Receptive to aligning with other MGF club leaders.

## ***Next Steps After Starting a Fellowship 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 Fellowship 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 ideas to help in getting the new group formed:

1. Let club officials know of your intent to form an MGF Fellowship 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.
3. Schedule a kick-off meeting and include the group's designated coach.
4. Since it's likely that some of the men will not know each other, a large part of the first meeting should be devoted to getting acquainted. Have each man tell their story – where they have lived, what they did in their careers, what they do to enjoy their leisure time, a little about their faith journey.
5. Continually remind the men “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. Leaders can model trust by being the first to share deep issues. Asking for prayer requests to accompany the opening prayer also goes a long way toward building group trust.
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 MGF Discussion videos (and related discussion guides). Also encourage the members to send content/make suggestions about what they would like to discuss.
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. That will be great for him and for the other members.

## ***Fellowship Group Topics and Materials***

We strongly recommend that new Fellowship Groups utilize the MGF speaker videos (all professionally produced from MGF Chapter meetings) and associated leader/participant discussion guides on the RESOURCES page of the MGF website at <https://mensgolffellowship.com/resources/>. These are added to each year, thereby providing for a continuously rich inventory of core MGF discussion content connected to our Chapter settings.

These speaker videos have been carefully selected, developed and tested to effectively facilitate interesting and meaningful discussions based on the speakers' talk themes. Some videos can be covered in a single one hour session while others might take up two or even three Fellowship Group meetings.

The best method has proven to be to have participants view the videos during the week preceding the meeting and print out, review and bring the discussion guides to the meeting prepared to share their reactions and comments with the group. This small "homework" assignment will keep everyone on the same page in the meeting and make for very lively and substantive conversations.

As groups mature, they may wish to periodically depart from the MGF videos and utilize other video series' and discussion materials appropriate for the group. While there is obviously a practically endless supply of these from many sources, the **MGF National Resources Team** will assist your Chapter in reviewing those you're considering and/or pointing you to others—some of which have been developed and effectively used by other MGF Fellowship Groups.

These are also available for your consideration on the RESOURCES page of the MGF website from the **OTHER DISCUSSION RESOURCES** link. We regularly add to these on the MGF website.

### **III. Fellowship 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 some of the men may be 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.

#### ***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.

**6. 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.

**7. 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.

**8. 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.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. 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.

## IV. RUNNING FELLOWSHIP GROUP MEETINGS

### *Format of a Fellowship Group Meeting*

What actually happens in any particular Fellowship Group can vary somewhat from other groups, depending on the style of the leader and the makeup 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. Be sure to follow up on the status of issues processed in prior meetings.
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.
7. Encourage members to honor start/stop times and encourage "buddy lunches" with at least one other member during each calendar month. These will allow for follow-on conversations not permitted by meeting time-constraints.



## ***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 three to five, 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.

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 more 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 Fellowship 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 Fellowship Groups meet at their clubs, but private homes, a community clubhouse, a condominium common room or convenient restaurants are also options. Some groups play golf after the 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 Fellowship Group leader will therefore be constantly watching for anything that could derail the group. These are some of the most common things that could cause this:

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 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 redirect the discussion.
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 are 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. Having someone take/summarize notes from the discussion (without disclosing life stories) can help keep the group together even when members have to miss a meeting. This can also be a tool for showing potential members the types things being discussed.

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, or other activities, 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:

***Growing in Faith With Golf Friends***

**[www.mensgolf fellowship.com](http://www.mensgolf fellowship.com)**

5. Finally, and most importantly, make every effort to absorb, reinforce and adhere to the *Fellowship Group Meeting Guidelines*. These will keep the group on track and ensure a highly satisfying experience for everyone.

## V. 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 (1) 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)**

## Example (2) of Introductory Meeting Invitations

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### WELCOME BACK!

For each of the last ten winter seasons, more than 50 (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. These are 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 (Date) and ending (Date) 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)

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.