In His Grip Life Groups

**In His Grip Golf**

Men struggle to find purpose and authentic community, where they can develop deep friendships and share life challenges. In His Grip provides a fun and safe environment through a common passion of the game of golf. Men find their purpose through God’s word and encourage each other to become better friends, husbands, fathers and leaders.

The mission at In His Grip is to challenge and encourage men to place God first in their lives, families and businesses. The vision is to see a movement of men mentoring men to go and change the world.

This will be accomplished through the multiplication of In His Grip Life groups whose leaders will identify uprising leaders within their own group and/or outside their group and encourage them to start another group. Jesus’s last command on earth to his disciples was to GO and make disciples.

**What is an In His Grip Life Group?**

**What In His Grip IS:** All men that play golf are welcome. Life Group Leaders are from the Community and pre-qualified (They are not church pastors of staff leaders although they may attend) Life groups typically start small with a core group of 5-12 guys and then grow from there.

Men like to play hard and work hard and that typically does not leave space to develop true authentic friendships, which leaves them feeling isolated, alone and on an island. When life challenges and personal needs arise they do not have any friends to turn to.

In His Grip Life Groups create a fun and safe environment where guys can be themselves. The groups are mostly held at golf courses or golf facilities, and at coffee shops. The groups are the beginning of the friendships and authentic community and continue to grow on and off the course. Some groups play golf or start a league after group meetings. As the men connect through their love of golf, the conversations go deeper and real life friendships develop.

The life groups meet weekly, same location, same day and same time. Consistency is key.

In His Grip’s goal is to teach men to open their bibles and read the word on a daily basis so they can hear and discern what God is revealing to them. There is no shortage of great content, speakers and books for men’s ministry, however the focus is on ONE book, the Bible. Books are great to inform but the Bible is the only one that transforms. The greatest movements around the world are based on two things. A foundation of prayer and God’s Living Word. As God GRIPS the hearts of men that is when life transformation happens.

**Who Leads the Life Groups?**

Throughout the bible God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Group leaders are ordinary people from the community who volunteer to start a life group. A leader does not need to have a set of credentials or a seminary degree. The leader’s self-assessment will help men evaluate if they are ready to start a group.

The group leader is only a FACILITATOR who shows the guys how to G.R.I.P. the Word of God.

The leader is not the speaker or teacher. The Holy Spirit is the one doing the teaching in each man’s heart and mind.

**What is the Format of a Life Group?**

Simplicity and Consistency are the keys to success. The simplicity of the format using the G.R.I.P. acronym to read the bible makes it easy to follow and do on a daily basis. The consistency is the guys know what to expect each week and the meeting format is modeling what to do daily. **The format is also structured so that if a member misses a meeting due to business travel or other reasons they do not feel they have missed anything the previous week.**

Physically write out the scripture for the meeting and then GRIP it.

**G-GODS WORD**

Read Gods Word out loud in a minimum of 3 different versions. Talk about context of the scripture…who was the author? There are times it can be helpful to read the scriptures before and after the verse for context.

**R-REVEAL**

What do you see in the verses you are reading? Who is the author? Who is the audience? What is the context? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out? What is God revealing to you?

**I-IMPLEMENT**

This is when God’s word becomes personal and practical. What is God asking me to do? How can I implement what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action I need to take?

**P-PRAYER**

Pray God’s word back to him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Ask God that he help you be obedient and just do it. Confess if He has revealed some sin in your life. Create space to just listen. Remember prayer is as much listening to our Father as much as it is talking to Him.

As men learn to G.R.I.P. God’s Word we encourage men to have a daily tee-time with the Lord every morning at the same time and place while journaling using the G.R.I.P. format. Jesus, our example, would get up early in the morning and spend time with his Father.

When we get a firm G.R.I.P. on God’s Word it becomes a part of us and we naturally live it out, the reason so many of us don’t live it out is because we haven’t taken hold of it. If we teach men to get a G.R.I.P. on God’s word just see what God will do.

**IN HIS GRIP LIFE GROUP VALUES:**

**Biblical Alignment-Reading God’s Word**

The greatest adventure is the one that God has planned for each one of us. To learn your true purpose guys need to read and learn what God has to say. The group meeting will focus on God’s Living Word and how God is speaking to each man individually. God gave us a gift, the bible to guide, teach, correct and equip us for His work.

**Authentic Friendships:**

To have an authentic friendship you need to be an authentic friend. As the saying goes; to have a 2:00 am friend you need to become a 2:00 am friend. Guys need to have each other’s back and be there for each other. There is a deep bond that builds when men act by serving one another.

**Connecting to a Community**

Men living life together on and off the course builds real community. Connecting with others by sharing meals with friends and families, meeting for coffee and playing golf is when the conversations go deeper and significant relationships are created.

**A Safe Place**

Confidentially is very important. What is said in the group stays in the group.

**Open & Honest**

Guys need a place where they can be real. Honesty promotes an open environment. As trust builds transparency will unfold.

**Encourage Each Other**

Encouraging words bring life and build others up and benefit the entire group. Encouragement is a community builder.

**Fun and Humor**

Guys need fun and humor. Who wants to be in a room with a bunch of serious guys, when life and work are serious enough! Part of the fun is simply going out and playing a round of golf with your friends.

**Prayer as the Foundation**

A foundation of prayer is an essential part of the success of the group. We can prepare the boat, put it in the water, and raise the sails but it is the Holy Sprit that will bring the wind, fill the sails and move the boat. An extraordinary movement of God will only happen with extraordinary prayer. God will answer prayers in amazing ways and the group’s faith will increase.

**Obedience**

As Nike says “Just Do It”! God expects us to be obedient to his word. Guys need to implement or act on what God is telling them to do so that they can see God’s purpose for their lives. Obeying God means that you love him. A lifestyle of obedience can take time and guys need to hold each other accountable in truth and love.

**Reaching Others**

Reaching others by inviting people to see and hear what God is doing. All guys desire authentic community and purpose in their lives, group members can help others find it through a simple invitation.

**What is IN His Grip IS NOT:**

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

**We are not a counseling service**…there are times we will encourage guys to get professional counseling

**We are not a rehab program or support group**…again there are times we will encourage guys to get professional help