

# The Power of a Team

**Objective:** To equip believers with a framework for understanding the role of doing church as a team rather than flying solo.



What are some of the reasons that geese fly in this peculiar formation?

## GEESE FACTS

Geese \_\_\_\_\_ . When one goose \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, it rotates to the back of the formation  
and another goose flies to the lead position.

As each goose flaps its wings, \_\_\_\_\_  
for the birds that are behind it. By flying in "V" position the birds are able  
to \_\_\_\_\_ than they could "flying solo."

Geese \_\_\_\_\_ at one another while they are flying \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to those flying in the front of the "V."

When a goose \_\_\_\_\_, two geese will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the formation and will follow their comrade down  
to the ground. They stay with the wounded bird until it dies or is strong  
enough to fly again.

The "V" formation enables all of the birds \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ that the group is flying toward.

## The Flying V

Lessons for the Church come in the most unusual places sometimes. Take geese for example. Who would have thought that geese could teach the Church a thing or two? In particular, the way geese fly is a tremendous illustration about the power of teamwork. It's been said that a team will outperform an individual every day of the week. God has designed us to "fly" in cooperation with others. We can accomplish so much more through the power of a team. So, let's take a look at a few myths which flying geese dispel in our churches.

### **Myth: The Pastor can do it alone**

In the West have constructed an oddly shaped "V" when it comes to the pattern in which we fly in our churches. In many congregations, the paid staff are the ones who do ministry while the rest of us stand on the ground and watch them fly. Our pastors have become superheroes who are capable of leaping tall buildings in a single bound, run faster than a locomotive, and can stop a bullet with their bare hands! We have built a model of "doing church" which suggests that the goose who is flying in the lead position is meant to always stay there. The reality is that the pastor can not fly alone, nor can he fly at the head of the "V" without assistance and shared leadership.

### **Myth: I'm not gifted**

Oh yes you are! The New Testament clearly teaches that every believer is equipped by God with spiritual gifts that He expects to be used for the building of His Kingdom. God has graciously bestowed on each one of us unique ways that we can serve Him and others in a fulfilling way. Make no mistake about it; you are gifted! You are gifted by God to make an incredible contribution... one which will have eternal impact.

### **Myth: I can fly alone**

As the geese so amply illustrate, we need the "updraft" of others around us. Sure, we can try to fly solo, but the wind resistance is much more demanding. When we fly with others we have the support and encouragement we need to fly faster and farther. God has made it clear from many passages in the New Testament that each believer has a role to play in the "V." The apostle Paul likens the church to the human body and he suggests that each believer has a special part to play in how the body functions. You need the "V" and the people sitting around you in church need the "V."

## Why are we here?

### Debrief

**Question #1:** What grabs your attention from this article?

**Question #2:** How does it challenge you personally?

**Question #3:** Which myth is the strongest in our church and why?

### The Flying V in the New Testament

Look up each of these passages and record a few insights about how the church is meant to fly in a "V." In particular, what place do these passages have to say about the role of the pastor, the nature of teamwork, spiritual gifts and any other "flying geese" principles that you notice?

#### Passage

#### Flying "V" Principles

Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12:1-10

1 Peter 4:10-11

Ephesians 4:11-16

## Personal Reflection

**Question #1:** Which myth from the “flying V” article is the most challenging to me and why?

**Question #2:** What specific action steps do you need to take to a contributing “goose” toward where the church is flying?

**Question #3:** When you think of making a contribution that would have an eternal impact, what do you think of doing for God?

**Question #4:** What is one thing that could get in the way of you putting this into action?

## Wrap-Up

One highlight for me from today is \_\_\_\_\_

