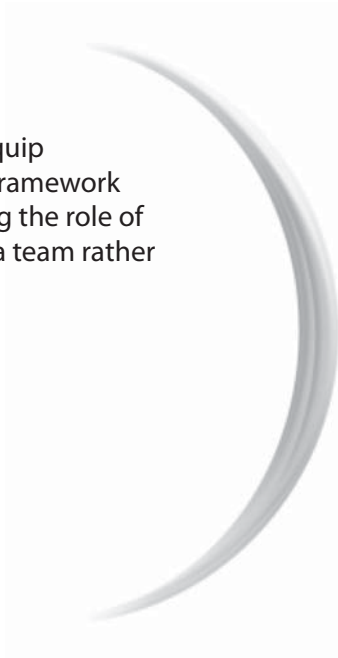


The Power of a Team

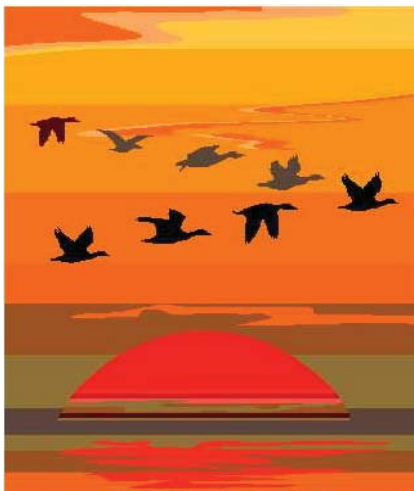
Objective: To equip believers with a framework for understanding the role of doing church as a team rather than flying solo.



**10-15
minutes**

Discovery Activity

Draw everyone's attention to the picture of the geese in flight. In smaller groupings, ask people to respond to the question next to the picture. Give them 2 or 3 minutes to think out loud.



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

Why are we here?

Next, take a few minutes to talk about some of the unique features of why geese fly in “V” formation. Encourage people to fill in the blanks as you read the information below.

Geese Facts

Geese take turns in the leadership position. When one goose gets tired, it rotates to the back of the formation and another goose flies to the lead position.

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an “uplift” for the birds that are behind it. By flying in “V” position the birds are able to fly 70% farther than they could “flying solo.”

Geese honk at one another while they are flying to offer encouragement to those flying in the front of the “V.”

When a goose gets sick or injured, two geese will drop out 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 to see the direction that the group is flying toward.

Next, (in the original groupings) ask people to respond to the sharing questions:

Question #1: Tell about a time when you did or did not experience “flying in a V.” It could be at church, sports, in the workplace, family, etc.

Question #2: Bring the group back together and ask the room to reflect on the stories that they heard by asking this question: What themes or threads ran through the stories that were shared in your group?

**10-15
minutes**

Learning Activity

After you have had your discussion about the geese and the flying “V” draw everyone’s attention to the article entitled “The Flying V.” Encourage folks to read the article slowly and to underline key thoughts and phrases. After everyone has read the article, take a few minutes to discuss it by asking:

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

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?

**20-25
minutes**

Practice Activity

Assign participants into two's and three's. Give everyone 10-15 minutes to work through the various passages. Then, bring everyone back together to talk about the principles and ideas that each passage is reinforcing. Capture the comments of the group on a legal pad.

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	

**15
minutes**

Application Activity

After you have had a thorough discussion on the four passages, allow everyone to have some individual time to reflect on what the flying "V" means for them personally. Once everyone has had 4-5 minutes to write down some thoughts, ask them to get into groups of three to share their reflections.

Debrief

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?

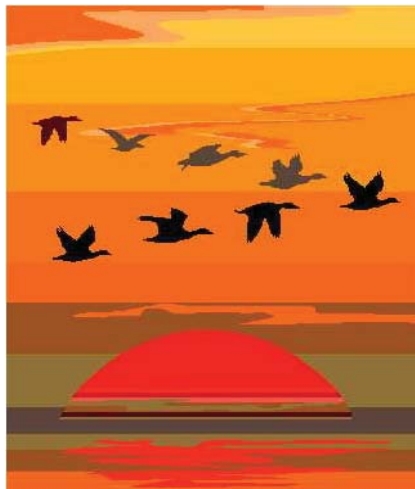
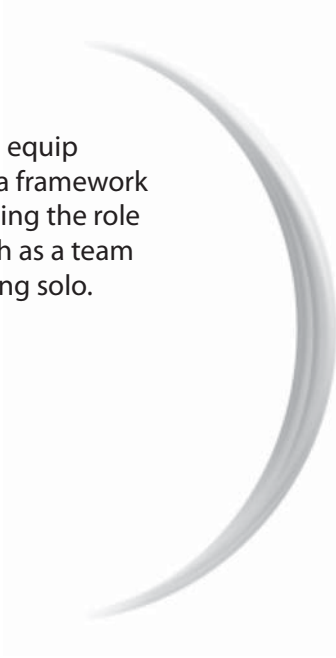
Wrap-Up

Take a few minutes as you close out the session to celebrate new learning around the room. Ask everyone to stand and for a few people to share their response to this statement:

One highlight for me from today is _____

The Power of a Team

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

GEESE FACTS

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Personal Reflection

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