Date: 10/1/2016

Title: Flying South in Formation

Theme: Our church will work better if we are all part of the team.

Object: Picture of geese flying south in formation. Duck call.

Text: Eccl 4:9-12 (NLT) 9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.  If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

This is one of many passages in the Bible that talks about the importance of working together.

That’s why we have a church because a church is like a team where we can all help each other to succeed.

Have you noticed the change in the weather? Is it getting hotter or colder out?

Yes. Fall officially arrived last week. The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting colder.

It’s time to have a fire in the fireplace to warm up the house a bit.

Now there are many things that happen every year when fall comes, but one of the most interesting happens up in the sky.

It’s when the Canadian geese begin to fly south for the winter. The winters are really cold in Canada, so they fly south to find a place where the water is not frozen all winter long.

If you’re outside and listen carefully, you may be able to see a flock of geese flying south.

Now when the geese fly south, they fly in a V formation like is shown in this picture. There’s one goose in the front and all the others form a V behind it.

And as they fly, they honk to one another with a sound something like this [honk]. If you hear some honking, look up in the air and you’ll see the geese in their V formation.

Now the geese are pretty smart. There is a reason they fly in a V formation. In this formation, each goose provides additional lift and reduces the air resistance for the goose flying behind it.

Scientists estimate that as a flock, the geese can fly 70% farther by flying in a V formation as a team instead of each one flying alone.

But what about the goose in the front? He doesn’t have anyone to break up the resistance of the air for him.

So you know what they do? Every so often, the front goose goes to the back of the V and another goose takes his place. When that goose gets tired, he goes to the back. So they keep rotating the leader.

So they travel as a team taking turns at being the leader in the most difficult position.

Do you know what happens if one goose gets hurt and has to drop out and land somewhere?

Two other geese drop out with him and stay by him to protect him until he gets well or dies.

And all the time these geese are honking encouragement to each other.

Now the Bible says that our church should be like a team or like a flock of geese flying south.

We should be encouraging one another and praying for one another as we fly along.

If someone gets sick or discouraged, we should drop in and visit them and pray for them and make sure they are cared for until they can come back to church.

When we all fly together as a team, we make it easier for each other.

Worshipping God and learning in SS is so much easier when we all do it together.

What if you were the only one that came to church on Sabbath, and you had to do it all by yourself? You had to play the organ, and sing the hymns, and have the prayer and take up the offering and preach the sermon and have the benediction and teach the SS lesson…

It wouldn’t be nearly as good as when everyone helps and does their part to be part of the church team.

God knew what He was doing when He created the church and made us a team.

Two is better than one. Three is better than two. Four is better than three… Being a part of the church team is better than trying to be a Christian on your own.

Would you like to be part of the church team? Let’s ask God to help us be faithful and do our best to help our team succeed.