

Some things that we can learn from Geese

(Adapted from Dr Robert McNeish)



1. We achieve more together. Geese always fly in formation. As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in a 'V' formation, the whole flock has 71% greater flying range than if a bird flew on its own.

Q. How often do we 'fly alone' without enlisting help? What do we do to encourage team work?

2. Stay in formation. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Q. Do we reinvent wheels? Do we utilise the power of networks for ideas and support?

3. Choose the right leader for the circumstances. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Q. As a leader do we feel we have to do it all ourself? As a follower do we ever offer to lead? Are there some circumstances when a different leader is required?

4. Stand by your friends and colleagues. When a goose becomes ill or wounded, two geese move out of formation and follow it down to protect it. When the goose recovers the three fly in formation to rejoin a flock.

Q. Do we stand by each other in difficult as well as good times?

5. Provide encouragement. The geese in formation 'honk' from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Q. How often do we provide encouragement?

Lessons from Geese:

- Agree on the goal.
- Work as a team.
- Be willing to help others.
- Be willing to get help from others.
- Do all you can with your talents, knowledge and abilities.
- Be willing to lead.
- Be willing to let others lead.
- Encourage each other.
- Stand by those who get sick or wounded along the way.

Food for thought?

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