



IN CLUSTERS AND V'S (Children's Story/Parable)

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At certain seasons of the year, watching a flock of birds fly overhead is often very interesting. Twenty centuries ago the Roman naturalist, Pliny the Elder, guessed that geese somehow find the going easier when they fly in a v formation.

It wasn't until 1970, however, that researchers came up with detailed mathematical formulas explain the aerodynamics of a flock of birds. They found that a bird in a v formation could fly 70 percent farther than otherwise.

Another reason for flocking together is for protection from predators. Scientists have reported countless observations of what they call "cluster flocking," in which birds like starlings and cedar waxwings bunch up in the air when they are attacked by hawks. Somehow this seems to confuse and frustrate the predators, and they veer off to hunt somewhere else.

Sometimes Christians get tired of going to church and forget that there are good reasons for getting together with fellow believers. Admittedly, because churches are made up of people (who are less than perfect), they can sometimes be frustrating. But when the question comes up, "Who needs church, anyway?" it may help to remember that a couple of the positive reasons for birds to fly in flocks also apply to people.

Jesus said, " 'Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them' " (Matt. 18:20, NIV). Being a member of a church congregation should help you to "fly farther" in your Christian experience and it should also help you to protect one another when the predator (Peter called him a "roaring lion") is prowling around in your life.

These are some of the good reasons for us to worship together in church each Sabbath.