



# Worship points

## Geese

### Facts about Geese

The naturalist Milton Olsen has said there is a lot we can learn from Geese:

*Fact One:* As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the birds following it. By flying in a V-formation the whole flock adds seventy one percent greater flying range than if the bird flew alone.

What can we learn? People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the thrust of one another. That is a universal collective lesson.

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

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go, and be willing to accept their help, as well as give ours to others.

*Fact Number Three:* When the lead goose gets tired it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

An invaluable lesson for us to apply to all group work. It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. With people as with geese, we are interdependent on each other's skills and capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts and talents.

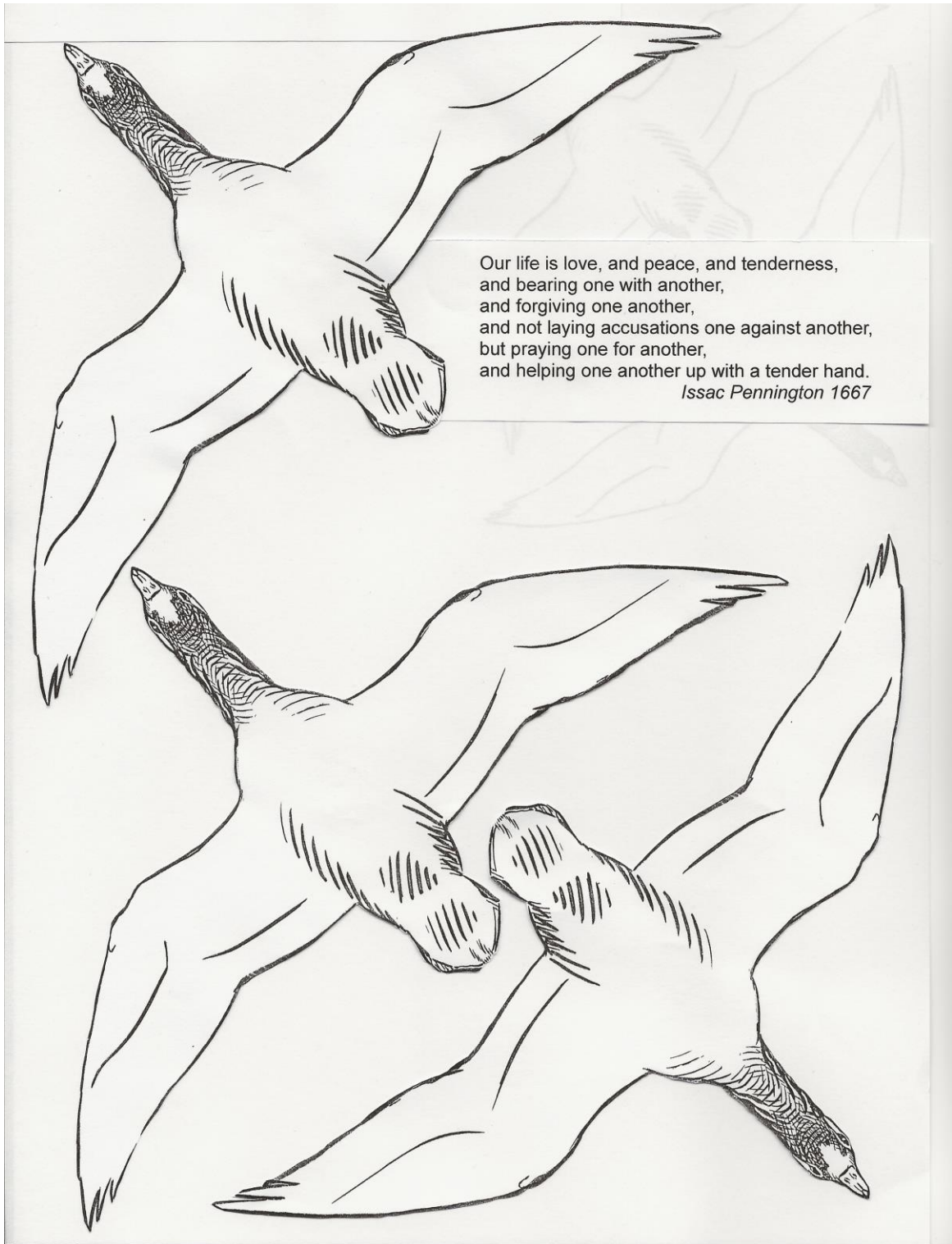
*Fact Number Four:* The geese in formation honk from behind, to encourage those in front to keep up their speed

We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging - and not something else. In groups, where there is greater encouragement against great odds, the production is much greater - the power of encouragement. The word courage means 'to stand by one's heart, courage to stand by one's core'.

To encourage someone else's core, to encourage someone else's heart - that is quality honking.

*Fact Number Five:* When a goose gets sick, or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again, or dies. Then they launch out on their own with another formation, or catch up with the flock.

If we have as much sense as geese, we too will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.



Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness,  
and bearing one with another,  
and forgiving one another,  
and not laying accusations one against another,  
but praying one for another,  
and helping one another up with a tender hand.  
*Issac Pennington 1667*