

GOD USES PATTERNS

I spent much of my career in technical companies where engineers had developed and designed some of the greatest technologies the world has ever known. Engineers regularly reuse design concepts as a baseline and tweak them to be used in different applications. Basically, if you have a great design, you can repurpose it and use it in multiple ways.

For example, consider the wheel. This simple design can be used in many ways. Obviously it eases movement to help transport items along a path. A wheel is used as a pulley to help lift objects. It can also become a gear, engaged with other gears, to make mechanical devices function.

Have you ever thought about the patterns in nature, where God reuses a great design? Have you ever thought about how the roots of a tree also resemble the branches that we see? Have you ever pondered how the pattern of roots and branches closely resemble the blood vessels and nerves in animals and humans?

Have you ever noticed that the orbital pattern of the solar system is repeated in the way stars move around a galaxy? The same pattern occurs as electrons move around the nucleus of an atom. Have you ever noticed that as water swirls around a drain, it looks like the vortex of a tornado or like masses being sucked into the gape of a black hole?

The reuse of patterns is everywhere. If you haven't noticed, there is a pattern of parenthood, as well. The process of parenthood applies not only in our physical lives but also in our mental and spiritual development.

Over the next several chapters, we are going to talk about the process of parenting and how God's parenting process is a repetitive pattern. He treats humanity as a good parent treats a child. We can also witness Jesus Christ using the parenting process as He formed His disciples.

So what is the pattern? First, we build relationships; we can call that “love or community.” Next, we learn to communicate. Then we are taught rules and discipline. Next, we are nourished, cared for, healed when injured and taught how to support ourselves. And finally, we are sent out to nurture others. This is the pattern of parenthood. Over the next several chapters, we will delve into the proofs of this pattern!

STEPUP Snippets:

- ✓ Engineers reuse and repurpose designs for multiple applications.
- ✓ The pattern of reusable designs is evident in nature.
- ✓ God has a process of parenting that is repeated in humanity.
- ✓ The pattern is Love, Communication, Rules and Discipline, Nurturing for growth and being sent to develop others.