

# Multi-Age Worship

## Patterns



Kids' Talk - This can be expanded to lead into worship; sermon space or communion.



Use these ideas with the 'Professor Patterns' slideshow



Patterns powerpoint (request this via [vasti.vanwyk@buv.com.au](mailto:vasti.vanwyk@buv.com.au)).

Collection of dress-ups, coat hangers, clothes rack, Jazz music, printouts of text, highlighters, camera, 'Indescribable' song by Laura Story.



Between 5 or 50 minutes, depending on purpose of use.



### Connect

Gather a collection of dress-ups with interesting and striking patterns. Hang these on coat hangers on a clothes rack for easy access.

Invite the children to participate in a "Pattern Fashion Parade" (if you have some light Jazz play this in the background as your 'models' do a run of the catwalk.)



### Context

**Slideshow:** this can be presented by a crazy 'Professor Pattern' character who bursts in and proceeds to share his research with you, thus working through the slide show.

**OR**

Can be presented by one person as if you have received this email from 'Professor Pattern'. The slide show simply highlights a range of large and small patterns that can be observed in nature.

**Continue...**

**Worship:** Highlight that as we have observed the patterns and beauty of the world those of us who know the creator of these patterns have been participating in another pattern – the pattern of worship. The Bible calls us to patterns of worship in our lives. Continue in the pattern of worship...

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## Music

Sing: *Indescribable*

(Laura Story, © 2004 worshiptogether.com songs/sixsteps Music/Gleaning Publishing)

There are a number of youtube slide shows of this song with patterns of nature themes. Some are better than others. Alternatively give this as a project to a younger person in your community who is tech savvy (that's pretty much all of them), to assemble a slide show to accompany the lyrics, developing the theme of pattern.



## Content

3 Bible Examples

There are lots of passages that can follow well here. Most text (of any kind, and the Bible is no exception) is constructed in a series of patterns. It's how language and ideas work to yield meaning.

Engage in some group exegesis, looking for the patterns within the texts, or across a few texts.

[Psalm 118](#) is an easy one – the pattern is pretty clear.

[2 Timothy 1](#) is about the patterns of faith from generation to generation.

- Highlight the pattern of words beginning with S.
- Find and highlight the numerous sets of opposites in close proximity to each other.

(eg: night/day... tears/joy)



- Follow the pattern of the Trinity in this passage, highlighting each reference to God Jesus and the Spirit. Note what each of them are getting up to, and the patterns of how they work together.
- What about the patterns of people. Highlight and note each of these.

Set your gathering to work with large printouts of the text with broad margins and sets of highlighters. Annotate the print outs with all of your insights. These can be displayed for other groups to see later.

A facilitator who has already done the pattern task work of the text can bring the findings together. Or simply present a summary at the end.

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Content

## 3 Bible Examples continued...

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** There are some wonderful threads through this tightly woven text.

- Follow the pattern of the verbs.
- Follow the pattern of the “with all” reiterations.
- Follow the pattern of the “when you...” reiterations.
- Follow the pattern of the “your...” clauses.

Illuminating and noticing the patterns helps us remember the text, but also helps us interpret the text.



Consider

**Photographic evidence:** Send out some pairs (ah, there’s a biblical pattern) with a camera to take photos of patterns around your site. Close up shots can emphasise patterns that can otherwise be missed. You might like to display these and try to identify where they are from. At the same time, consider the patterns on your community that are not photographable, because they are patterns of action or attitude. The patterns we can’t see.

**Turn this into a prayer**



Consequence

**The Lord’s prayer**

**The Lord’s supper**

Practice the patterns that have been passed on from generation to generation of disciples. Recognise the common shapes and colours in these two patterns:

**bread, forgiveness, the kingdom come...**