

Discipleship Foundations

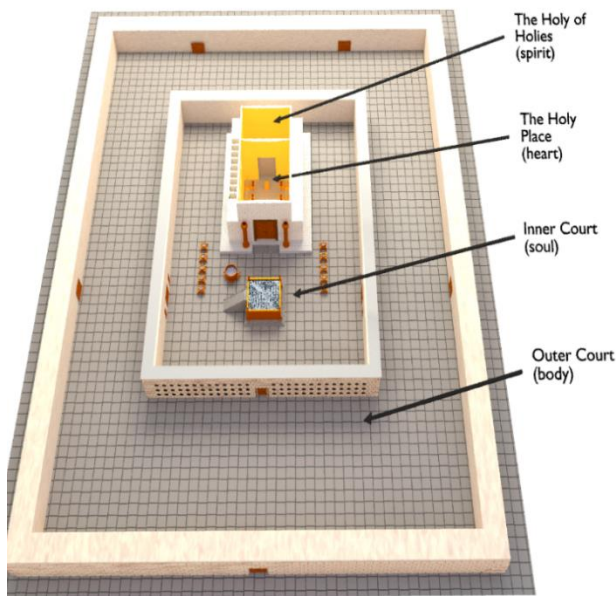
L-2 Human Design

Instructions: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal insights and application. Read as a group, underline, and then share what stood out to you and why.

“Then the Lord God formed man out of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Gen. 2:7, NASB).

Many of us realize that we were created by God, but wouldn't it be nice if there were a blueprint or model to help us understand how God designed us to function? Such a model would help us optimize our spiritual growth and show potential problem areas for us to work on. The good news is there is one.

A Biblical model based on Solomon's Temple will give us new insight about how God designed humans. The diagram below shows the basic elements of Solomon's Temple, including each area and what it represents in human design. The practical application from each lesson is powerful and transformational.



The temple design was given to King David as a revelation from God, just the same way the tabernacle design was given to Moses. King David fully intended to build the temple, but God prohibited him from doing so because he was “a man of war” (1 Chron. 28:3.) God chose David's son, Solomon, to succeed David as king and to build the temple. In 960 BC, after seven years of construction, the project was completed. King Solomon dedicated the temple, and the glory of the Lord filled it. *

The glory of God (also known as the Shekinah Glory) emanated from Solomon's Temple for over 400 years.

This temple was also the only one to house the Ark of the Covenant. These factors, along with others, show that Solomon's Temple is the best model for human design. **

Genesis 2:7 tells how God originally created humans: “Then the Lord God formed man out of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (NASB). God took the dust from the ground and shaped it into a physical form. Our bodies are simply a composite of the basic elements of the earth and, in the end, will return to the ground from which they came.

The body is the most outward component of man, designed to be the housing for the inner being. Our bodies reflect a wide range of personal variations, such as appearance, size, and abilities, or the lack thereof. These differences help make us unique, but at the same time we are all very similar (with a few exceptions regarding gender). **Have you considered how your unique physical features fit with your inner person?**

The physical body is a very complicated machine that allows the inner person to interact with the material world. Sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell are the five senses that allow things to pass through the body and into the inner being.

The Outer Court of Solomon's Temple represents our body. The gates in the temple wall represent how things are brought into and taken out of the body. Understanding how the body interacts with the physical environment is critical to protect the inner person. (Keep this in mind as we move forward.)

After God fashioned the dust of the earth into an incredibly intricate machine, God breathed the breath of life into Adam's nostrils. This is the spirit. In *Strong's Concordance*, the word for *breath* here is *nesamah* (H5397). According to *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*, this word is, “a feminine noun meaning breath, wind, spirit. Its meaning is parallel to *nepes* (H5315) and *ruah* (H7307).” The human spirit is one of the most misunderstood components of our design.

Can you explain what the human spirit is and what its primary functions are?

Often people believe the human spirit is the same as the heart or soul, but this is not accurate. The human spirit is unique, having specific functions just like the heart or soul. The human spirit also has specific needs, much like the body which requires food and water to live. Have you ever considered what the spirit needs?

The Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple represents the human spirit, and the Holy Place represents the human heart. We will look at each of these in great detail as we move forward.

God breathed the spirit into Adam. What a phenomenal picture this is! Can we imagine God holding the lifeless body that He just created, pausing for a moment, thinking not only of this one life that was about to come into being, but of your life, my life, and the lives of every other human being? Can we imagine the expectation and joy God had, and yet, at the same time, the agony of knowing that breathing life into this body would ultimately cost the life of Jesus? **God knew the cost of redeeming us from the beginning.**

When the spirit entered the flesh, "man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7, NASB). The King James Version interprets the word *being* as *soul*. The Inner Court of Solomon's Temple represents the soul which consists of the mind, the will, and the emotions. The gates in the Inner Court wall represent how what is taken in transitions from the body into the soul.

The soul is also where the temperament resides. Temperament is the inborn operating system which gives humans the ability to interact with the world around them. Temperament is different from personality and character. Not understanding the soul leaves one vulnerable to temptation and prone to search for fulfillment in the wrong places. **Do you know your temperament's strengths, weaknesses, and needs?**

Many Christian ministers and authors have compared the human design to the temple in varying degrees, but more important is that it is a consistent theme found in Scripture. "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are" (1 Cor. 3:16-17, NASB).

Jesus compared Himself to a temple in John 2:19, "Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'"

Those who heard the words Jesus spoke were deeply offended because they thought He was talking about the temple in Jerusalem where they worshiped. However, this was not the case. Jesus was talking about Himself. The religious leaders of His day could not comprehend His claim, but do not be too hard on them. We have the advantage of the Holy Spirit and the New Testament, but our religious traditions can still hinder our insight.

The New Testament is full of direct and indirect references to believers being the temple of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you when you read the other passages in the "Going Deeper" section. ***

Humans are created in the image of God.

This truth has multiple layers such as possessing the ability to reason, choose, and have moral character. Sin has distorted these attributes, so we no longer properly represent our creator. Redemption includes transforming our image, so we properly reflect our creator. ****

Another layer, introduced in this lesson, is our three part being. Each of us have a spirit, a soul, and a body. While these can be individually examined, together they make up the whole person and help us represent God. **How does our three part structure reflect the image of God?**

THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT GOD

God is a triune being consisting of God the Father; God the son, Jesus; and God the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Godhead is distinct, yet they are one God. This mystery about the Trinity of God is very difficult for us to understand. We can deepen our relationship with God by considering what role each person in the Godhead plays in our lives and how we relate to each. We are created in His image and we may learn something about ourselves in the process of spiritual growth.

GOING DEEPER

Find additional resources for each lesson such as scripture references, videos, and teachings at: <https://experienceordination.org/training-courses/>

* 1 Chr. 17:1-15, 1 Chr. 22:1-19, 1 Chr. 28:1-21,

** 1 Kgs. 8:1-11, 13, 9:13, 2 Chr. 7:1-2, 16.

*** John 2:19-21, 1 Cor. 6:19, 2 Cor. 6:16, Eph. 2:20-22, 1 Pet. 2:5 and Rom. 8:11.

**** Gen. 1:26-27, 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10