

## **Light: Proclaiming the Gospel through Education**

The purpose of education at Flatirons is primarily a proclamation of the Gospel--the good news that the awesome life, death and resurrection of Jesus reconciles and restores lost and broken people to the good, Creator of the universe. Promoting the Gospel is often understood strictly in terms of personal salvation. We want that for our students, but our institution also has the privilege and role of proclaiming the Gospel through our core function of education. We believe every activity is an opportunity to apply the good news with specific thoughts, attitudes, and actions. In the context of education, this means that teaching and learning is a way to reflect, worship, relate to, and obey our creator.

### **Reflect**

Education is possible because of who God is. He is all-knowing, He created us in His image, and therefore, He created us to know. When we think deeply, when our knowledge grows, we are concretely embodying the truth that we are created in the image of God. Our ability to reason is arguably our greatest distinctive among creatures on earth and central to our reflection of God's image.

### **Worship**

It is an act of worship when we value knowledge as an appreciation of what God created. Every subject of inquiry is an attempt to understand His thought and unlock the mystery of His ideas. There is no field of study outside His thought. Praise and thanksgiving should accompany teaching and learning.

### **Relate**

All of creation is God's original thought, and learning about it is a way to know Him more deeply. From the material universe to the depth of the human soul, the mind of God is revealed, and we have the opportunity to connect with Him when we grow in our knowledge of creation.

### **Obey**

Education is obedience when we fulfill the cultural mandate--the command in Genesis to make something of this world. Education is a fulfillment of this command to create culture. It is fulfilled best by learning the revealed Word of God, learning about creation, and then applying the truth of Scripture to the truth of creation. As we study various fields and make reasoned connections, new opportunities arise to think like God--to answer questions from a perspective that is distinctively biblical and applied in this unique historical and cultural context.

Proclaiming the Gospel through education requires an intentional focus on who God is and our relationship to Him as we engage education. Our posture toward God and His creation are the most important factors in the way we carry out education. The Gospel can be proclaimed through education when we live as restored

image-bearers of God, reflecting Him, worshipping Him, relating to Him, and obeying Him through teaching and learning. If we approach education by thinking and behaving theologically, we have the opportunity to be even more than individuals talking about Jesus; we can be an institution that embodies the Gospel.