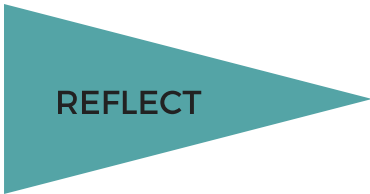




SESSION 2: WHAT IS A TEACHER?



1. What is the essential characteristic of an effective teacher?
What do I think is the "right" answer? What is my *instinctive* answer?

2. Do I consider myself an effective teacher? Why or why not?

3. Why am I insecure about my role or performance as a teacher? What's on my list of things that make me anxious or discouraged?

4. How does my role as teacher complicate my role as parent? How has my role as a parent affected my teaching?

5. Who is the teacher in the final scene of the book of Job? What qualifications does this teacher have? In what subject is this teacher an expert?

6.If the book of Job is a model lesson on education, which character am I supposed to identify with as a teacher? Where is my model? What is my current model and how is this different?

7. What have I assumed is God's position toward my role as teacher? What impulse determines God's actions toward me, if the book of Job is any indication?

8. What is my first responsibility as a teacher, if the book of Job is any indication? How will I implement this into my teaching this year?



BUILD

Take an opportunity to build your own philosophy of education which will govern your school or classroom this year. Each day you will build one of the four parts of a strong philosophy:

Part #2: What is my working definition of a "teacher" this year?



READ

If you enjoyed contemplating today's subject, here are a couple of Adam's reading recommendations from literature that consider these ideas:

1. *King Lear* by William Shakespeare

King Lear's goal is to create the world around him by fiat, to manipulate and direct his children for his own benefit. He pursues this goal in blindness to his own selfishness and to even his own blindness. His only "sighted" statement is "my eyes are not the best, I tell you straight." He sees himself clearly too late to save his children.

2. *Little Dorrit* by Charles Dickens

Much the same could be said of Father Dorrit as is said of Lear, though he never does see himself at all. His self image of a cultured, intellectual "grand old man" is a fantasy and looks ridiculous to others. By contrast, the ruthlessness with which Arthur Clennam faces his limitations and weakness allows him to participate fully in relationships (with his loved ones - or students if he had had them!)