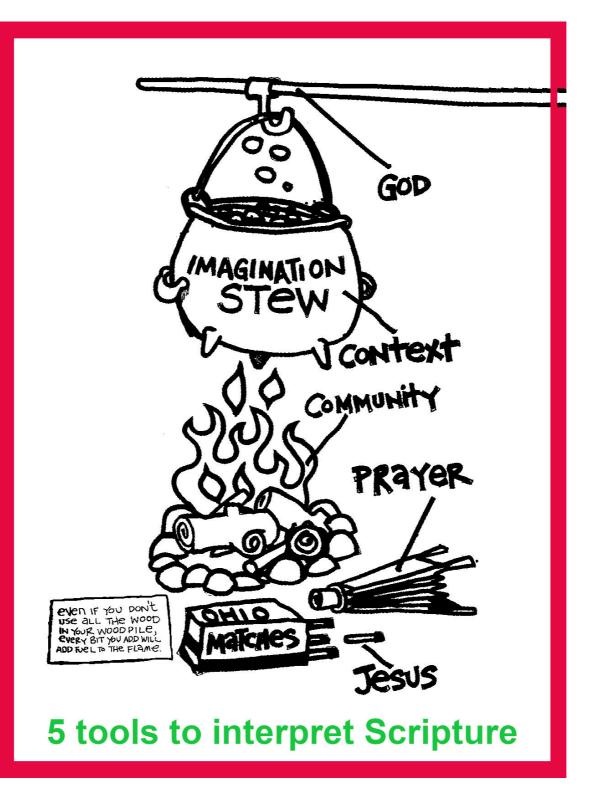


Will Willomon's tools for interpreting the Bible

- 1. It's all about God.
- 2. Context matters.
- 3. Jesus is the final Word.
- 4. This isn't solo work.
- 5. Pray.



Tool 1: It's all about God

- Read the 10 Commandments and ask:
- "What does this tell me about God?" of each

Tool 3: Jesus is the final Word

- How do you see Jesus in:
 - Psalm 1
 - "walks not in the counsel of the wicked"
 - "does not stand with sinners"
 - Isaiah 53:1-9
 - "despised and rejected"
 - "wounded for our transgressions"
 - Matthew 9:11-13
 - "eats with tax collectors and sinners"
 - "I came to call sinners"

Tool 5: This isn't Solo Work

- Turning interpretation over to the community brings risks:
 - wrong-headed ideas
 - disagreements
 - baggage of previous experiences
 - group think
- How do you feel about those risks?

How does the Bible affect you?

- Choose 1 how it affects you right now:
 - bores into my soul
 - grabs me by the neck and shakes me
 - sends me in a new direction
 - gives me a new insight every time I read it
 - challenges my faith or beliefs
 - doesn't affect me in any way at all



Refrain

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, Still you're there right beside me, and Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Refrain

Now I will not forget your love for me and yet My heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side, an I will love you to the end.

Refrain

Additional Resources

"The Art of Reading Scripture", Ellen F. Davis and Richard B. Hays. Wm. B. Eerdmanns, 2003.

"Shaped by the Bible", William H. Willomon. Abingdon, 1991.

Clyde Rupert offers a class called <u>"Chronological Jesus"</u> that is open to only 20 students, so register soon!