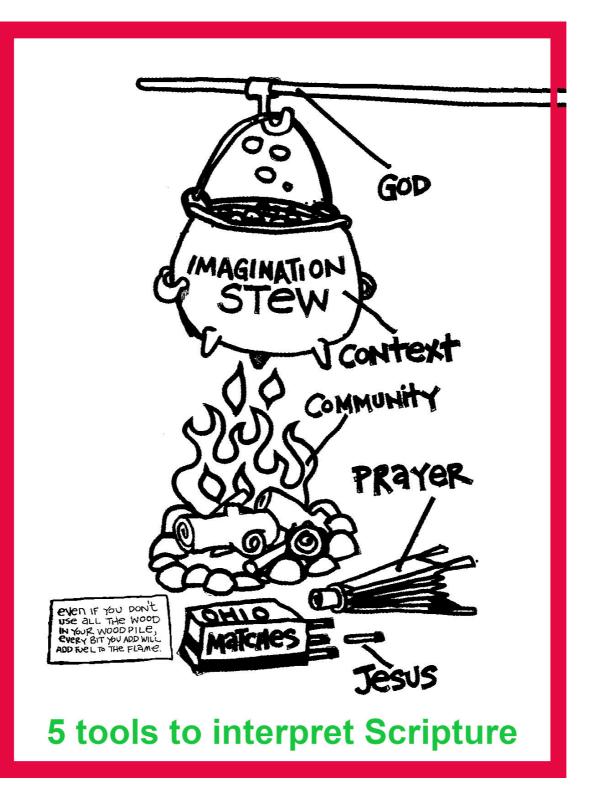


# Will Willomon's tools for interpreting the Bible

- 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!