



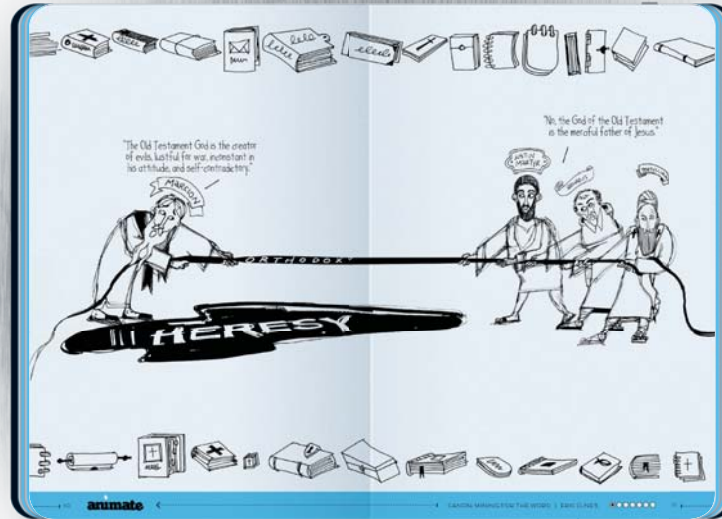
MARCION WAS THE BISHOP OF SINOPE, BUT HIS BELIEF THAT THE GOD OF THE JEWISH SCRIPTURES WAS INFERIOR TO THE GOD OF THE GOSPELS LED TO HIS EXCOMMUNICATION IN 144 C.E. STILL, HE CONTINUED TO PREACH, AND HE LED A CHURCH IN ASIA MINOR. HE DIED IN 160 C.E., AND A CHURCH THAT FOLLOWED HIS TEACHINGS LASTED FOR GENERATIONS AFTER HIM. HIS VIEWS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN PUSHING THE CHURCH TOWARD AN OFFICIAL CANONIZATION OF THE BIBLE.



THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF extra-biblical books that didn't make the canon—the Book of Mormon, the Didache, the Gospel of Thomas. But what if someone today found a third letter to the Corinthians? How do you think the church would decide whether or not to include it in the canon?



ERIC TALKS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT as a kind of refining fire that helps us extract "gold" from the Word of God. In what ways does your community apply "spiritual heat" to your reading of the Bible?



Break into three groups and ask each group to discuss the role of one of the following in our reading of the Bible: Prayer, Reflection, Community.



Have a few people share their responses to this question.

