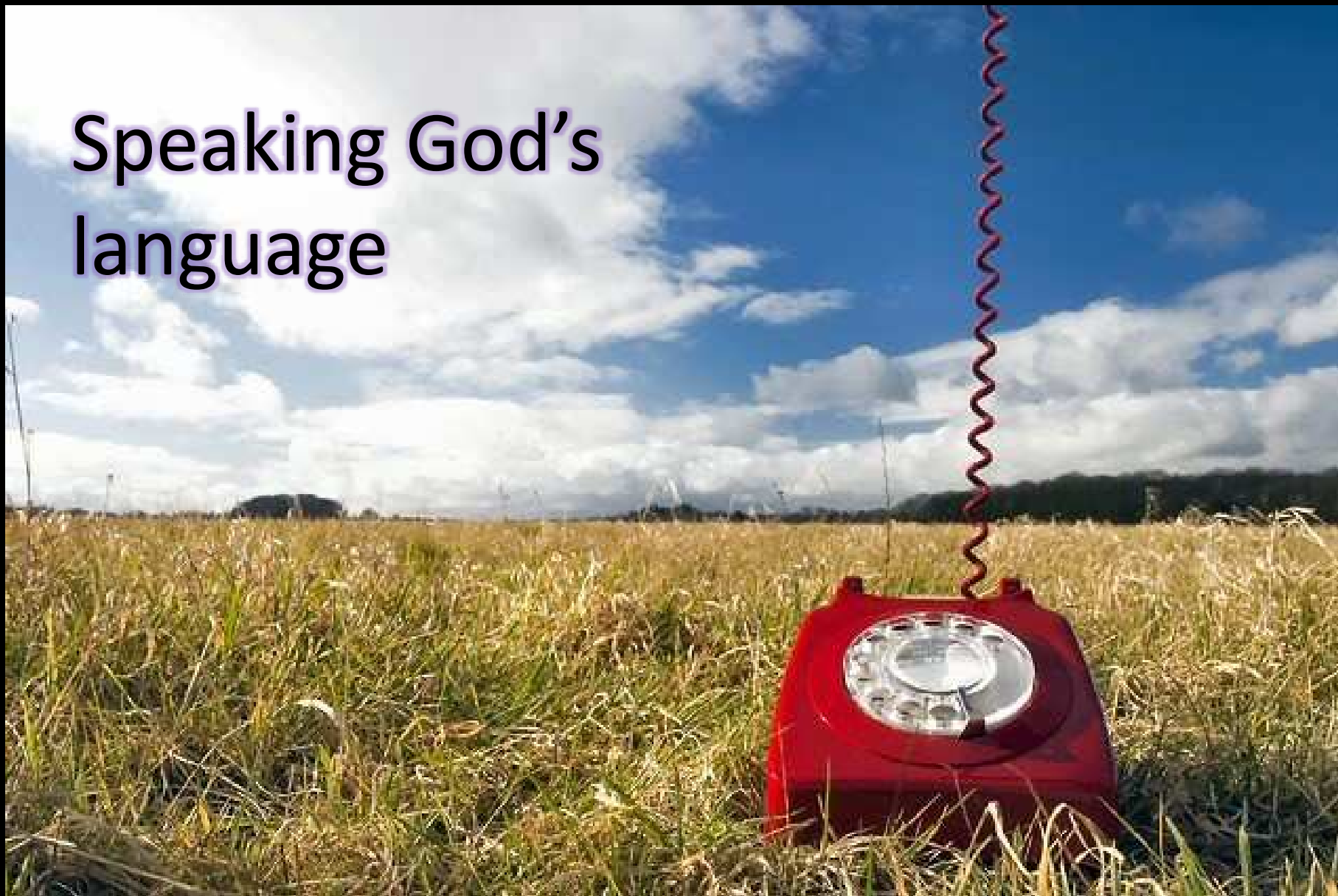


Speaking God's language



What is the purpose of prayer ?

Psalm 27 : 4,7

Prayer allows us to seek and experience God more clearly

“ Prayer is surrender - surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out an anchor from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God ”.

- *E. Stanley Jones*



Stages of communication through language

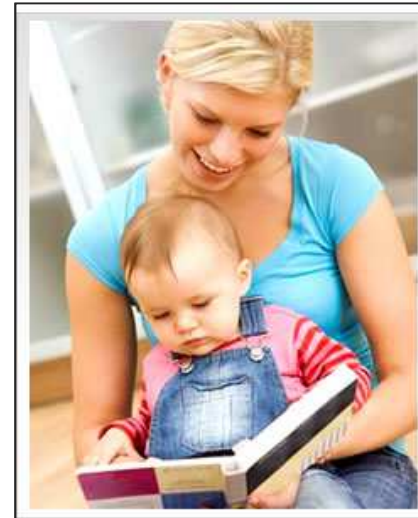


Stage 1 : Language of AFFECTION

- relationship, intimacy, love, trust



Stages of communication through language



Stage 2 : Language of INFORMATION

- identify things – learn names of objects, colours, body parts, etc



Stages of communication through language



Stage 3 : Language of MOTIVATION

- using language to make things happen / bring about changed behaviour





AFFECTION

INFORMATION
MOTIVATION



AFFECTION
INFORMATION
MOTIVATION



AFFECTION
INFORMATION
MOTIVATION



AFFECTION
INFORMATION
MOTIVATION

Language of **AFFECTION**

How should we approach God in prayer ?

Mathew 18 : 1-4

- To become Kingdom people we need to become like children - not having worldly ambitions, trusting, dependent, optimistic

Mathew 6 : 9

“This then is how you ought to pray : “Our Father in heaven, ...”

- God wants us to approach Him in prayer as His children





Some classic prayers in the Bible

1. Psalm 86 (David)
2. 1 Samuel 2 : 1-10 (Hannah)
3. Daniel 9 : 4-19 (Daniel)
4. Psalm 51 (David)
5. Ephesians 3 : 14-21 (Paul)

Group work : Read aloud in your groups, discuss the context of the prayer and identify the languages used in the prayer (AFFECTION, INFORMATION, MOTIVATION)



Practical response

1. Do personal study on each of the above prayers
2. Schedule specific time to pray this week e.g. 3 times a day for 15-20 minutes a time (like the 1st century Christians did)
3. Use all three languages in your prayers



Port Elizabeth Church of Christ

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