

SHERRY HARNEY  
PRAYING WITH EYES  
**WIDE  
OPEN**

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A Life-Changing Way  
to Talk with God

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BOOK CLUB KIT



SHORELINE.CHURCH



## You Will Need:

- A copy of *Praying with Eyes Wide Open: A Life-Changing Way to Talk with God* by Sherry Harney
- A copy of this Book Club Kit
- Your Bible!
- [Download this Bible Reading Guide](#)

## Week One (Week of August 30th)

**Read:** Introduction

**Introductions:** Tell us about yourself (In 1-2 minutes, tell us about you - family, work, hobbies, favorite food, etc..)

**Outline of Book Club:** We'll review this book club kit and talk about what each meeting will look like.

**Discuss:**

1. What brought you to this study?
2. What are you most looking forward to? What are some potential challenges you might face?

## Week Two (Week of September 13th)

**Read:** Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 - Section One, Praying with Eyes Wide Open &

Follow Week 1 from the Bible Reading Guide

**Watch:** [Praying with EYES Wide Open: Session One](#) (11 minutes)

**Icebreaker:** What time do you usually wake up in the morning? Do you awaken naturally or do you need an alarm?

**Discuss:**

1. Who taught you how to pray? What were some of the habits, patterns or specific prayers you were taught?
2. If we only pray when we close our eyes, what are some of the situations and settings in the flow of life that could remain void of prayer?
3. Read Luke 9:12-17 and John 17:1. What do you learn about Jesus' eyes and hands during these powerful moments of prayer? What are ways we can model the example of Jesus in these passages as we pray?

4. What are some settings and situations in which you can imagine yourself praying with your eyes wide open? How do you think you might find yourself engaging more intimately, actively, and frequently in prayer if you began praying with your eyes open on a daily basis?
5. How can praying with our eyes open connect us more fully to the presence of God, His power at work in the world around us? How might it bring new life and vitality to prayers when you are with other Christians?
6. What is one situation in which you are going to try praying with your eyes open in the coming week?

**Your Prayer Journey:** Take time through your week to pray using one or more of the "Your Prayer Journey" suggestions from chapters one through four in the book (pages 25, 35, 48, and 56).

## Week Three (Week of September 27th)

**Read:** Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8 - Section Two, Praying with Ears Wide Open &  
Follow Week 2 from the Bible Reading Guide

**Watch:** [Praying with EARS Wide Open: Session Two](#) (11 minutes)

**Icebreaker:** What do you do when you want to relax?

**Discuss:**

1. Describe a time when God spoke to you in some way. How did you recognize His voice and how did you respond?
2. If "prayer is about entering God's plan for me more than about getting what I want," how does prayer help us draw near to God and align our life with His plan?
3. Read John 10:2-5. What does Jesus mean when He says His sheep know His voice? If Jesus is your Good Shepherd, how do you know when He is speaking to you?
4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. How does God speak through Scripture? What are some of the things that can keep us from hearing and following what God declares clearly in the Bible? What practical things can we do to hear God's voice speaking through the Bible with growing frequency and clarity?
5. Why is it critical that we measure anything we think is coming from the Spirit against the teaching of the Bible? How should we respond if what we think we are hearing does not line up with what God teaches in His Word?
6. What tends to get in the way of listening to God and hearing His voice? What can you do to pay more attention and overcome these distractions this week?

**Your Prayer Journey:** Take time through your week to pray using one or more of the "Your Prayer Journey" suggestions from chapters five through eight in the book (pages 71-72, 87, 97, and 108).

## Week Four (Week of October 11th)

**Read:** Chapters 9, 10, 11, & 12 - Section Three, Praying with Hearts Wide Open & Follow Week 3 of the Bible Reading Guide

**Watch:** [Praying with HEARTS Wide Open: Session Three](#) (13 minutes)

**Icebreaker:** As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**Discuss:**

1. What are some of the things that can fill our hearts with worry, anxiety, or even fear? How can these get in the way of our prayers?
2. Describe a time when you were stressed and prayer brought a sense of peace and/or confidence. How did God give you peace through prayer?
3. Reflect on the basic structure of a lament psalm (pages 127-128). Why do you think God wants us to be totally honest and open with Him about our hurts, pain, and the struggles we face? What are some possible negative consequences if we don't tell God about the pain we are carrying?
4. Once we have addressed God, expressed, with deep honesty, our pain and struggle, we should ask for His help and invite Him to unleash heavenly power into our tough circumstances. Tell about a time you cried to God from the depth of loss and heartache and He showed up and answered your prayer, healing your broken heart.
5. At the end of a lament psalm there is a bold pronouncement of utter trust in the power, goodness, and faithfulness of God. Why is it absolutely critical that we end these kinds of heartfelt prayers with a statement of confidence in God? What has God done in the past to make you confident that He will deliver you in the future?
6. What is one thing you are facing in life right now that would lead you to a time of lament? How can your group members join you in praying as you face this situation?

**Your Prayer Journey:** Throughout your week, pray using one or more of the "Your Prayer Journey" suggestions from chapters nine through twelve in the book (pages 122, 136, 151, and 163).

## Week Five (Week of October 25th)

**Read:** Chapters 13, 14, 15, & 16 - Section 4, Praying with Lives Wide Open &

Follow Week 4 of the Bible Reading Guide

**Watch:** [Praying with LIVES Wide Open: Session 4](#) (14 minutes)

**Icebreaker:** What's your favorite holiday tradition? What meaning does it have for you?

**Discuss:**

1. How might our lives become richer and fuller if we would begin praying for people all through the day as we encounter them, think of them, or have the Holy Spirit place them on our heart?
2. If you have received a text, email, or written prayer from someone, tell about how this kind of prayer made you feel and how it impacted you. Without using a name, tell about a person in your life who would be encouraged receiving a text-prayer. (**Note** - You might want to stop right now as a group and have each person send a short text-prayer to someone who needs to know God is watching over them.)
3. Who is a person you love that is not yet a follower of Jesus? When would be a good time for you to pray for this person for one minute each day? Take a moment right now and add them to your phone as a reminder everyday at the same time. When your alarm goes off at this time, pray for them with your heart and life wide open!
4. What is a situation you are fairly confident you will face in the coming week when you could ask someone if you can pray with them? What topic will you pray in this moment?
5. What is one Scripture you want to use in the coming week to guide you in prayer? How will this passage from the Bible help guide you to a deep place of prayer?
6. Imagine a day where you would be lifting up many different kinds of prayers in a variety of situations with eyes open and closed. How could these prayers impact your day, other people, and the heart of God?

**Your Prayer Journey:** Take time throughout your week to pray using one or more of the "Your Prayer Journey" suggestions from chapters thirteen through sixteen in the book (pages 179, 191, 206, and 217).

## Week Six (Week of November 8th)

**Read:** Review the book and develop a 1-2 questions for Sherry!

### **Q&A with Sherry Harney**

*Potential questions we can ask Sherry if there is a lull or people have not prepared questions to ask her:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.