

1-100

Have you ever pictured your own funeral? Wondered what songs would be sung? Whether or not they would serve those egg-salad sandwiches? (Why more funerals don't serve pizza is beyond me). Maybe you've even gone so far as to wonder who would come and what people might say about you.

For a lot of us, that's a morbid thought. So much of our lives are spent trying to avoid thinking about death—buying products that make us look younger, working out so we can feel younger, avoiding certain foods because they lower life expectancy -- on and on the list goes.

There's something extremely sobering about facing the reality that we all have a limited time on this earth with which to live our lives.

Psalm 90:12 says this, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." We aren't told to number our days in a 'you only live once' kind of way. We aren't even told to number our days in order to reflect on where we've been and where we're headed. Scripture says that when we number our days, we will receive wisdom.

0 |-----| 100

On this line from 0-100, take note of where your age lands. Divide the line into two segments at that point. The segment on the left being the years you have lived up to your current age, and the segment on the right being the years you have remaining.

I invite you to focus on the left segment for a few moments. Think about the years that you have lived. Think about some of the highlights that stick out to you- maybe new relationships, milestones, good memories. Think about some of the harder times you've experienced. Where have you experienced struggles and hard times? And finally, where have you seen God at work throughout your lives? What are the markers you have of his faithfulness and presence in your life?

I invite you to focus on your 'years lived' as you pray this prayer:

***Thank you, God
For every day you've given me***

Thank you for the times I have laughed, and for the times I have cried.

Thank you for those I have loved, and those who have loved me.

Thank you that you've walked with me every step of every day

Give me a heart of wisdom to learn from my mistakes

To be more aware of your work in me

To realize the full potential of a life of faith and lean more heavily into your grace

Amen

Now I invite you to look at the segment to the right. Look at the length of the line that you have before you and imagine the stories that will unfold in the days, months and years to come. What are you looking forward to? What challenges do you anticipate facing? What do you want your relationship with God to look like?

Now focus on that line as you pray this together:

Thank you, God

For every day that lies ahead of me

For those I will meet

For lives that I will touch

For the joys to come

For your presence through the hurts and pain.

For those who will bless my life

And for those whose lives I can bless

Teach me to number my days , to recognize that life is short

Help me live each moment with purpose and passion, that I might gain a heart of wisdom.

Amen.

Let's continue to offer our everything to God as we seek his wisdom.