



DEEPER BIBLE

How Does God Measure Time?

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bibles*
- timer or phone with timer
- paper
- washable markers*

Easy Prep

- Draw a basic timeline with hash marks on a piece of paper. At the beginning of the timeline, write “Creation of the earth.” At the end of the timeline, write “End of the earth.”

Guess the Time

Say: **We’ve been learning that God is forever. So let’s see how good you are at measuring time.**

Tell kids you’re going to start a timer, and they’ll raise their hands when they think one minute is over. Start the timer, and watch for kids’ hands to see who gets the closest to one minute.

Repeat with various amounts of time—5 seconds, 37 seconds, 92 seconds, 8 seconds, and so on.

Ask: • **How did you keep track of time in your head?**

Say: **For humans, we have a clear way of measuring time. We all agree on how long a second is and that there are 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, and so on.**

But how does God measure time? Let’s dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: **First of all, time is something God made when he made the earth! Listen to these passages and see if you hear something they all have in common.**

Read Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31.

Ask: • **What did all the days of Creation have in common?**

Say: **From the very first day of Creation, God set up the idea of time. There was evening and morning. God created rhythms of time and days that would make sense to us. We didn’t come up with the idea of seconds and minutes. That’s all based on how long it takes the earth to rotate—a process that was God’s creation.**

But that may mean that *before* the earth existed, or outside of human understanding, time doesn’t exist. That’s hard to understand because we’ve been used to time our whole lives. But to God, time outside of the earth isn’t the same.

Read 2 Peter 3:8. Have small groups discuss this question, and then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

Ask: • **What does this verse show you about what time might look like to God?**

Draw Forever

Say: **This is still a little confusing, so let’s draw it out.**

Hold up the timeline you drew.

Say: **This is a timeline like one you’ve probably seen before. We measure time in a line. It’s clear if something happened before or after**

something else based on where it is on the line. This timeline begins with the creation of the earth and ends with the end of the earth.

And thinking of time as a line can make it hard to think of forever.

Lines have beginnings and ends!

So let's think of time differently.

Have small-group leaders distribute paper, and have kids use their imaginations to think of a way to depict time *besides* a line. As kids draw, make your own picture: a big circle with a dot somewhere in it. (Or come up with your own idea.)

Have kids show and explain their pictures to their small groups, then ask a few kids to show theirs to everyone. Show yours and explain it. If you used the example, say: **Maybe time outside of the earth's existence doesn't have a before and after. Maybe this dot is like the time earth exists and it's just floating in the middle of forever. There's no distinct before or after.**

However we try to understand it, we know that God measures time differently than we do. That's because God has no beginning and will have no end. God is forever!