

Art Extra - **Be Ready**

Scripture Reference: Mark 13:24–37

Illustrate a Poem

Kids illustrate an inspirational poem with pictures of troubling things as they remember, "Ready, steady, God."

Supplies:

- Poem PDF
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Current newspapers

Set Up:

Make one copy of the poem PDF per kid.

Instructions:

Every day we see things happening in our world that might scare us. Share a copy or copies of a current newspaper. Help kids locate a few troubling things in the news and take a few minutes to talk about them. **Would anyone like to share something troubling that has happened to you?** Allow kids to respond. **Sometimes it's hard to ignore these things when they're bothering us. One good way to feel better is to create art about scary stuff—that can take some of the scariness away! Let's create some artsy poems to help us tackle the troubling things we've talked about today.**

1. Pass out copies of the poem, *Ready, Steady*. **Let's read it together.**
2. After you're done reading, invite kids to use the markers or colored pencils to draw pictures of things that seem scary or troubling on and around the poem itself. Remind kids that different things affect people in different ways—we're not all afraid of the same things.

Jesus told us there will always be things that trouble us in our lives. But we know that we don't have to be afraid because God is always with us. I hope you'll take these decorated poems home with you and share them with the people you love. When you do, you can remember—"Ready, Steady, God!"

If you have less time. . .

Limit the discussion time before reading the poem aloud.

If you have more time. . .

Allow volunteers to share their pictures with the class and tell about the things that trouble them. Then take a few minutes to pray for God's help with the troublesome stuff.