

# DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

This one is easy and so powerful with the message of laying down burdens! Just play the song and follow the actions during the song.

## **PURPOSE/ MAIN POINT:**

Identifies the burdens we carry around and the enemy who desires to keep them before us. Believing that Jesus takes our burdens when we lay them before Him (At the riverside.) Scriptures: Matt 11:28-

30, Matthew 7:7, James 4:2

## **PROPS LIST:**

- 10 Large cardboard Blocks
- Tape "burden" list on the front and back of five blocks.
  1. Hatred
  2. Worry
  3. Greed
  4. Sadness
  5. Harsh Words
  6. Anger
  7. Unforgiveness
  8. Lying
  9. Gossip
  10. Judging
- Tape "rest" list on front of five blocks.
  1. Truth
  2. Joy
  3. Peace
  4. Hope
  5. Love

## **PROPS TIPS AND TRICKS:**

- Music download from Amazon Music or another platform - suggested song: "Down by the Riverside" by Christian Gospel Choir
- Shoe boxes can be used to replace the purchased large blocks
- This can be done easily with younger children. Simply lead the children to:
  - Show the blocks
  - Make a tower
  - Knock the blocks down at the appropriate time

**NARRATOR:** "The next song talks about the burdens we carry. We can try to ignore the burdens we carry, but it gets much harder to ignore something the heavier it gets. Before too long, we are weighed down which keeps "war" going on in our minds. (Hold up the blocks so residents can see each "burden" written on the blocks.) We will not "study war" of **hatred, worry, greed, sadness, harsh words, anger, unforgiveness, lying, gossip, judging others, anymore!**

Taking our burdens down by the riverside is simply taking them to Jesus. He says **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**-Matthew 11:28-

30

When we take our burdens to Jesus - we leave them there and God gives us rest. (Hold up the blocks so residents can see each "rest" written on the blocks.) Which is His **truth, peace, joy, peace, hope and love**. We cannot, however, do this on our own.

Jesus says: **"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."** Matthew 7:7

When we call on Jesus for forgiveness and help - He knocks all our burdens down and gives us His rest!

**"But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."** 1 John 1:10

**TECHNICIAN:** Start song - suggested song "Down by the Riverside" by Christian Gospel Choir

#### **EACH ONE TAKES A BLOCK - HOLDS IT UP...**

- 1st verse: "Gonna lay down my burdens down by the riverside" Each one takes a "burden" block - holds it up, and sets it on the ground (building a tower)
- 2nd verse - "ain't gonna study war no more" One person knocks the blocks down! All pick them up again.
- 3rd verse - "Gonna lay down my sword and shield" Each one takes a "burden" block - holds up to show the other side, and sets it on the ground (building a tower)
- 4th verse - "ain't gonna study war no more" One person knocks the blocks down! All pick them up again.
- 5th verse - "ain't gonna study war no more, down by the river, the riverside"

Each one takes a "praise" block and places them - building a tower. At the end-they join hands and take a bow.

**Let's pray and ask God to take our burdens and receive His rest in return.**

"Dear God, Thank you for taking our many burdens and sins. We ask for forgiveness. You are gentle and humble. We ask for You to give us rest, peace, joy and love.

We cannot do this on our own. We need You, Jesus. In Jesus name, Amen