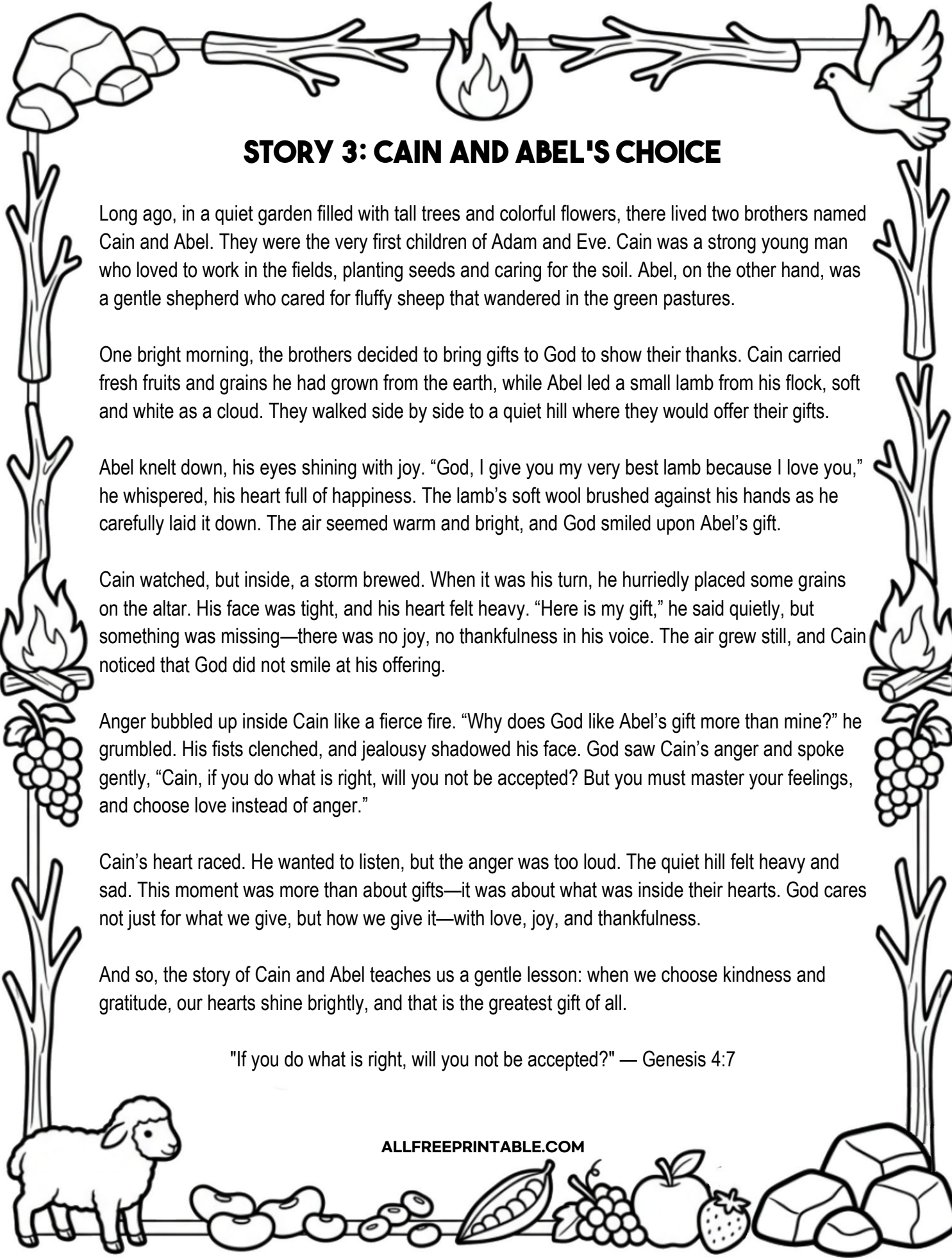


CAIN AND ABEL





STORY 3: CAIN AND ABEL'S CHOICE

Long ago, in a quiet garden filled with tall trees and colorful flowers, there lived two brothers named Cain and Abel. They were the very first children of Adam and Eve. Cain was a strong young man who loved to work in the fields, planting seeds and caring for the soil. Abel, on the other hand, was a gentle shepherd who cared for fluffy sheep that wandered in the green pastures.

One bright morning, the brothers decided to bring gifts to God to show their thanks. Cain carried fresh fruits and grains he had grown from the earth, while Abel led a small lamb from his flock, soft and white as a cloud. They walked side by side to a quiet hill where they would offer their gifts.

Abel knelt down, his eyes shining with joy. "God, I give you my very best lamb because I love you," he whispered, his heart full of happiness. The lamb's soft wool brushed against his hands as he carefully laid it down. The air seemed warm and bright, and God smiled upon Abel's gift.

Cain watched, but inside, a storm brewed. When it was his turn, he hurriedly placed some grains on the altar. His face was tight, and his heart felt heavy. "Here is my gift," he said quietly, but something was missing—there was no joy, no thankfulness in his voice. The air grew still, and Cain noticed that God did not smile at his offering.

Anger bubbled up inside Cain like a fierce fire. "Why does God like Abel's gift more than mine?" he grumbled. His fists clenched, and jealousy shadowed his face. God saw Cain's anger and spoke gently, "Cain, if you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But you must master your feelings, and choose love instead of anger."

Cain's heart raced. He wanted to listen, but the anger was too loud. The quiet hill felt heavy and sad. This moment was more than about gifts—it was about what was inside their hearts. God cares not just for what we give, but how we give it—with love, joy, and thankfulness.

And so, the story of Cain and Abel teaches us a gentle lesson: when we choose kindness and gratitude, our hearts shine brightly, and that is the greatest gift of all.

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" — Genesis 4:7