This collection of essays by Jewish, Christian, and Muslim scholars underscores the significance of sustained and serious ethical, interreligious, and interdisciplinary reflection on children. Essays in the first half of the volume discuss fundamental beliefs and practices within the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam regarding children, adult obligations to them, and a child’s own obligations to others. The second half of the volume focuses on selected contemporary challenges regarding children and faithful responses to them. Marcia J. Bunge brings together scholars from various disciplines and diverse strands within these three religious traditions, representing several views on essential questions about the nature and status of children and adult–child relationships and responsibilities. The volume not only contributes to intellectual inquiry regarding children in the specific areas of ethics, religious studies, children’s rights, and childhood studies, but also provides resources for child advocates, religious leaders, educators, and those engaged in interreligious dialogue.

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CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives

EDITED BY

MARCIA J. BUNG E
With gratitude
for the many joys and insights
Isaac and Anja
bring to my family and our community
and
for the amazing gifts and strengths
children and young people
bring to families and communities around the world
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All three religious traditions examined in this book speak about children as “gifts” of God. My own children, Isaac (18) and Anja (11), have truly been gifts and blessings in my life, and I thank God every day for them. My deep love and respect for them are intimately tied to my appreciation of and concern for other children and to my interest in and passion for mining wisdom from the world’s religions about children and childhood.

I sincerely hope that by examining beliefs and practices regarding children in these three specific religious traditions, this book can enrich our appreciation of the many strengths and vulnerabilities of children and prompt all of us – whatever our nationalities and whatever our religious or non-religious commitments – to work together more whole-heartedly to serve children in our midst and around the world.

Marcia J. Bunge