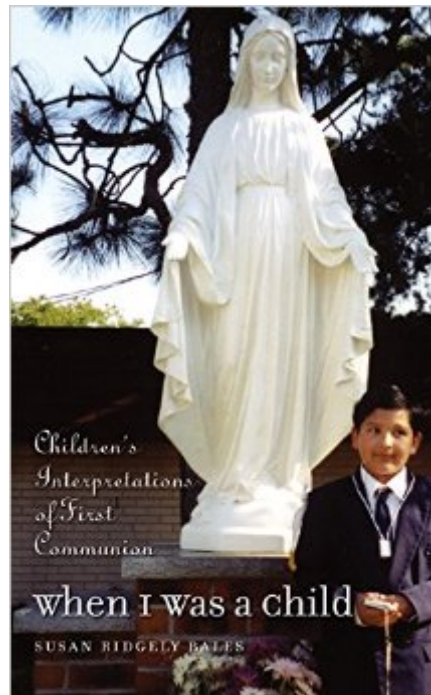


The book was found

When I Was A Child: Children's Interpretations Of First Communion



Synopsis

First Communion is generally understood as a rite of passage in which seven- and eight-year-old Catholic children transform from baptized participants in the Church to members of the body of Christ, the universal Catholic Church. This official Church account, however, ignores what the rite actually may mean to its participants. In *When I Was a Child*, Susan Ridgely Bales demonstrates that the accepted understanding of a religious ritual can shift dramatically when one considers the often neglected perspective of child participants. Bales followed Faith Formation classes and interviewed communicants, parents, and priests in an African American parish and in a parish containing both white and Latino congregations. By letting the children speak for themselves through their words, drawings, and actions, *When I Was a Child* stresses the importance of rehearsal, the centrality of sensory experiences, and the impact of expectations in the communicants' interpretations of the Eucharist. In the first sustained ethnographic study of how children interpret and help shape their own faith, Bales finds that children's perspectives give new contours to the traditional understanding of a common religious ritual. Ultimately, she argues that scholars of religion should consider age as distinct a factor as race, class, and gender in their analyses.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; 1 edition (September 26, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807856339

ISBN-13: 978-0807856338

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,403,357 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > First Communion](#) #1173 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Children's Studies](#) #1842 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Institutions & Organizations](#)

Customer Reviews

Susan Bales has written a wonderfully insightful book on the experiences of Catholic children as they prepare for, and participate in, First Communion. This is a must read for Catholic educators of

children and their parents. The book is also a treasure trove for scholars of Religion American - filled with rich research and analysis. A gem!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

When I Was a Child: Children's Interpretations of First Communion First Communion Bible Children Ages 7 To 8 Celebrating Their First Communion Will Treasure This Handsome New American Bible Interpretations of American History, Vol. One - Through Reconstruction: Patterns and Perspectives (Interpretations of American History; Patterns and Perspectives) Marian Communion Mass Book First Communion Presentation Set Girl (Malco) My Book About First Holy Communion: A Child's Workbook Child's Guide to First Holy Communion Catholic Child's First Communion Bible-OE Sacramental Journey: First Holy Communion: Class Activity Book for Children First Communion Days Catholic Children's Audiobook Cd Set Friendship with Jesus: Pope Benedict XVI Speaks to Children on Their First Holy Communion Remembrance of My First Holy Communion (Old World Edition Marian Children's Mass Book) Jesus Comes to Me: Preparation for First Confession and First Communion Mi primera confesion, mi primera comunion, mi confirmacion/ My First Confession, My First Communion, My Confirmation: Catequesis Presacramental (Spanish Edition) Jesus Comes to Me: Preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion Rosslyn Chapel Decoded: New Interpretations of a Gothic Enigma Interpretations of American History, Volume 1: Through Reconstruction: Patterns & Perspectives Interpretations of American History, Volume 2: From Reconstruction: Patterns & Perspectives Problems in Modern Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations (Latin American Silhouettes) Plato's Dialectical Ethics: Phenomenological Interpretations Relating to the Philebus Dreams: The Hidden Meaning And Interpretations Behind Your Dreams: Dream Interpretation - Learn About What Goes on Inside Your Head While You Sleep

[Dmca](#)