

# GO AND...

## THE THANK YOU BOOK

*By Mo Willems  
(New York, NY: Hyperion Books for  
Children, 2016).*

In the spirit of being honest, we all could do a better job in life of saying thank you. So for the month that we especially remember gratitude because of the Thanksgiving holiday, spending time with a book like this could be timely. In this book, the characters Elephant and Piggie explore what it means to say thank you and to be thankful. Through lots of pictures and just a few words they capture the complexity of saying thank you, and surface times when saying it might be hard or not as heartfelt as it could be, or the emotions that one might feel when someone might forget to tell another thank you. Given that it is part of a kids' book series, the set-up and flow are easy and accessible for all ages

and might even make for a fun way to include this in a Children's Sermon around thanksgiving, or for a family to use to talk about Thanksgiving before gathering with others for Thanksgiving. This could be especially helpful if you are going to a meal or gathering together where there might be an intentional practice of going around the table and inviting people to give thanks for something out loud. For young kids in particular reading this book before Thanksgiving might help them better understand, and to engage in the cross+generational practices of gratitude and being honest with one another out of deep love and care.

