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PRACTICES + SKILLS FOR CATECHISTS & EDUCATORS

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## Video Guide

# Creative Learning Methods & Activities: Closing Well

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# Closing Learning Well

## Ideas from the Video Presentation

Here are eight wonderings about wrapping up learning with joy and intention.

### 1. Closing in Silence

Invite learners to take a moment to simply absorb what has been happening. Reflection is a critical skill all of us need as we navigate the information we are being bombarded with. This does not even need to involve a question — just stillness.

### 2. Inviting Students to Name a Closing Question

Rather than the teacher providing the closing thought, put it in a student's hands. Ask one student to offer the question they are leaving with. This simple shift keeps curiosity alive and signals that the learning is not finished when the session ends.

### 3. Inviting Students to “Think–Pair–Share”

Invite students to identify a response to a closing question — for example: Which part of today's learning was most interesting to you? Or Which part of the learning affirmed your thinking or your gifts? Sharing with a partner before sharing with the group lowers the stakes and raises the quality of the conversation.

### 4. Closing with a Class Ritual

Close with a ritual the class genuinely loves. For example, invite students to name something they are grateful for as a simple basket is passed around, or ask each person to offer one word that summarizes how they feel about the learning. Be ready for honest responses — including from those who are not yet fully engaged.

### 5. Using a Song with Changeable Words

Find a familiar tune and change up the words so students can create their own summary of the learning experience. Music engages different parts of the brain than instruction alone, and it gives students a joyful way to internalize what they have explored.

### 6. Exiting Ticket or Post-It Note

Give students a small slip of paper to capture whatever information you need to launch the next lesson well. Keep it simple — one question, one response. The goal is information you can actually use.

### 7. Writing a Journal Reflection

Offer students a journal to note an image or a few words. You can review these to get a sense of how they are feeling about the learning — their confidence level, any questions they are still carrying, what surprised them, and so on. Even a quick scan gives you valuable insight before the next session.

### 8. Standing at the Door

Just as you greeted students when they arrived, stand at the door to say goodbye and wish them well. It takes almost no time, and it means a great deal.

**More than anything, relationships and learning matter.  
Everyone needs to feel affirmed and to know that you care.**