# Student Submission Example (Essay Format)

Name: Sarah Jensen

Assignment Title: Leadership Challenge Proposal & Covenant Reflection

Word Count: 944

This semester, I’ve been facing a real leadership challenge in my role as a seminary teacher for a group of ten young women. It has been difficult to keep them engaged in our early morning classes, especially with the growing spiritual apathy I’ve noticed not only in class but also in our wider community. Many of these girls come from homes where they are the only active Church members, and I can see how this adds pressure and discouragement. I’ve tried different methods to bring more energy into our lessons—student-led discussions, music, even some light devotional themes—but nothing seems to stick. Participation is still low, and attendance has dropped off for some of my most spiritually strong students. This has been going on for about six weeks, and I’m starting to realize it might not be something I can fix with a new activity or approach.  
  
I’ve felt discouraged and sometimes even question if I’m the right person for this calling. I spend hours preparing lessons only to feel like I’ve missed the mark. I’ve struggled with feelings of inadequacy, wondering if someone else could reach these girls better. But in that struggle, I’ve also come to see how much I care. I’ve begun praying for each student by name, not just praying about what to teach, but really asking the Lord to help me understand them and love them better. My short-term goal is to help them feel safe and seen in class—to make our classroom a place where they can connect with the Savior. Long-term, I want them to develop personal testimonies and begin to see seminary not as a requirement but as a refuge.  
  
This leadership challenge has pushed me to grow in patience and in seeking revelation. I’ve started to rely more fully on the Spirit instead of just my own ideas. I’ve also realized that sometimes progress isn’t immediate. That’s hard for me, but I think it's part of what the Lord is trying to teach me. I’m trying to focus more on connection than content and to measure success differently—not by how many hands go up in class, but by the small moments when a student shares something real or smiles as they walk in the door.  
  
As I studied Luke 6:12–13, I was reminded that Jesus spent the whole night in prayer before choosing His apostles. That showed me how deeply He relied on His Father for guidance in leadership decisions. It made me think about how I prepare spiritually before class. I’ve started setting aside time in the evenings just to pray about my students—not about what lesson to give, but what they need and how I can be a better instrument.  
  
In John 11:41–43, Jesus publicly thanked God before performing the miracle with Lazarus. He wanted others to know that the power wasn’t His alone—it came from the Father. That really hit me. Sometimes I try to look like I’ve got things under control, but I’ve started being more open with my students about my own need for God’s help. I tell them when I’ve been praying for them or when I’ve had to rely on the Spirit to get through the week. I think that vulnerability helps build trust.  
  
Luke 22:41–44 was especially powerful. Jesus knelt alone in Gethsemane, in agony, still submitting to God’s will. That’s the kind of strength I want to have—not the strength to fix everything quickly, but the strength to stay faithful and keep showing up even when it’s hard and I feel alone. There have been mornings I didn’t want to teach because I felt like a failure, but I thought about Christ’s willingness to suffer and keep going, and it gave me courage to keep trying.  
  
Finally, in 3 Nephi 19:19–21, Jesus prayed for His disciples to be filled with the Holy Ghost. I loved how intentional He was. It wasn’t just a quick prayer—it was deep and specific and full of love. That has changed how I pray for my students. I now ask for specific blessings for them, by name. I believe that’s one way to draw on covenant power—not by demanding outcomes, but by pleading in love and faith.  
  
Even though this challenge isn’t resolved, I no longer feel like I’m carrying it alone. I’ve learned that leadership isn’t about control; it’s about connection and covenant. The Savior is teaching me that His power comes through love, prayer, and faithfulness. I don’t know how this will turn out, but I do know that He’s in it with me—and that makes all the difference.