Manju and Sekar started a Christian fellowship group for students from southeast Asia seven years ago. With the growing number of group members over this period, maintaining a meaningful group environment has been a challenge. Neither Manju nor Sekar had much time to consider what Biblical foundation they would recommend for others to repeat their effort.

This changed when a former member of the group, Yoshi, ended a recent text with the following, “Two of us live close to a major university and want to expand a fellowship group among students that we started a few years ago. We have attempted to follow what we remember of your group. You both have been able to meet new students where they are individually and yet organize a Bible study in a welcoming group setting. We have the advantage of both being from that area and understand where these kids come from. What worries us is that neither of us feel well grounded in the applying of Biblical insight that can meet individual needs within a group.”

Sekar immediately called Yoshi and asked, “What did you mean by meeting individual needs within the group?”

Yoshi responded, “It is quite easy to rely on prepared Bible study guides to lead our group. However, our fellowship members are from very diverse backgrounds and they are only with us a short time. We are concerned whether we are meeting their individual needs so that we can use these few years to bring them further in their walk with Christ.”

This response prompted Manju and Sekar to reflect on how this new group should approach individual needs in their ministry. As they thought about the unique backgrounds of the students they had worked with over the years, three themes stood out. First, there was a wide specter of personality traits among the students. These included a need for praise from others, inner pride, stubbornness, and low self-esteem. Second, new students had varied exposure to and acceptance of Christian faith. Some had a family history in the church but not a heart for the Lord. Others were well grounded in their faith through that of their parents. Some had not accepted Christ but were drawn to the group setting. Third, leaving their home and coming to a very different location and culture added to the complexity of the new student transition.
Manju and Seka want to not only immediately help their former student group members but also lay a Biblical foundation that this group can share with others as they promote future fellowships.
ASSIGNMENT
Provide a set of scriptures that would assist Manju and Sekar in developing a foundation for a Christian fellowship that focuses on the individual needs of the group.

My Scriptural Research:

Group Scriptural Research:

Decisions / Recommendations:

Primary Scriptural References: