Deuteronomy 4:44-5:33 WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?

1. Can you remember the Ten Commandments without looking them up? If so, then have a go at sharing it now as a group.

2. Pray and read Deuteronomy 4:44-5:33.

3. The word 'law' (torah) is mentioned in verse 44 and usually refers to the whole Pentateuch (first 5 books of the OT). Here it is used to describe the 'stipulations, decrees and laws Moses gave them' (v.45). In broad terms, how did the previous chapters 1:6-4:43 prepare the Israelites to listen more carefully to the recounting of the covenant law by Moses (esp. 4:39-40)?

5.	Look at the Ten Commandments (v.7-21). Briefly list out the principle(s) that a) undergird each commandment, b) the sin it guards against, and c) who it protects.
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4. How does verse 6 relate to verse 7?

6. There are two minor differences between the Ten Commandments in Exodus and in Deuteronomy. The first different is who the Sabbath rest benefits (cf. Ex 20:10) and the other is what the Sabbath is grounded in (cf. Ex 20:11). Compare and discuss why Moses may have made the changes.

7. OT scholar Eugene Merrill states that the Ten Commandments, 'function as the essence of divine standards and expectations against which every conceivable human attitude and conduct is to be measured. They are, in fact, expressive of the very character of God himself and for that reason alone are timeless and universally applicable.'

Discuss.

8. Why might the Lord have written the commandments on stone tablets (v.22), as opposed to parchment or papyrus?

9.	Why does God say, 'I have heard what this people said to you. Everything they said was good.' (v.28), in response to what the Israelites said in verses 24-27?
10	Optional: Think about how Jesus teaches using the ten commandments (cf. Mt 5:21-22, 27-28; 15:3-6; Lk 18:18-27). What do you notice?
11.	Share one insight and one thing that you'd like to put into practice during the week (this could include picking one verse to memorise or meditate on).
12	. Pray for each other.