

3 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)?

4. How does verse 6 relate to verse 7?

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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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?

