



Week 1: The Big Picture

INTRODUCTION – Why Is This So Popular?

THREE REASONS:

1. It's well done!
2. It's perfectly marketed – Gnostic marketing is hip.
3. It's about our favourite topic – US!

An Overview of “The Secret”

THE SECRET = THE LAW OF ATTRACTION

THREE STEP CREATIVE PROCESS:

1. Ask
2. Believe
3. Receive

Mark 11:23-25

Good Psychology

The Creative Power of Gratitude

Philippians 4:4-8

Bad Theology

The Emphasis on Law and the Conspicuous Absence of Personhood

**1 John 4:8, 16; Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 26:39;
Luke 11:9-13; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

Unresolved Questions

1. Why do the vast majority of people who have apparently mastered The Secret live in America?
2. What makes us think that getting everything we want is actually a good thing for us?
3. If our thoughts create our circumstances, can people who are ill or poor or victimized be blamed for their own misfortunes?

CONCLUSION – Experiencing Ultimate Power

Ephesians 3:14-19

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. What has been your experience with or exposure to “The Secret”? What are your first impressions?
2. In your opinion, what are some potential gains that followers of “The Secret” could expect to experience in their lives? What are some potential pitfalls?
3. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.
4. What do you think might be valid answers for the three “unresolved questions”?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

5. **GOOD PSYCHOLOGY:** Review **Philippians 4:4-8**. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) What are some noticeable ways you might see change in your life if you practiced the ideas in this passage?
6. **BAD THEOLOGY:** Review the “Bad Theology” verses listed in your notes. a) What passage, verse, or thought stands out to you the most? Why? b) Walk through **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** slowly, listing the differences between the universe Paul claims we live in and the universe proposed by “The Secret”. Talk about the implications. c) What are the radical benefits that come from living in a universe ruled by a personal God of love, rather than a karmic law of attraction?

SO WHAT?...

7. Take a few minutes to quietly meditate on **Ephesians 3:14-21**. Read it over a few times, asking the God of the universe to allow you to “grasp” (TNIV) or “comprehend” (NASB) how much he loves you. Then, pray that you might move beyond comprehension to “experiencing” (NLT) or “knowing” (TNIV) God's love intimately. Take your time and simply allow yourself to feel what it is like to be loved so infinitely.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, May 27 / June 3, 2007