



# Juno

PG 13 - 2007

## Overview

Juno's journey in this movie begins in a convenience store bathroom stall where she takes her pregnancy test, through nine months of ups and downs: telling her other best friend, Leah, about her pregnancy, telling her parents, weathering strange side effects like "heartburn radiating to [her] knees," ultrasounds, growing out of her clothes, not getting asked to prom. After a brief stop at an abortion clinic—which Juno decides is not for her—she sets about finding adoptive parents for her baby. She chooses Mark and Vanessa Loring, a yuppie couple with a huge house in the suburbs. Vanessa is a high-strung career woman. Mark is an aspiring musician. They've got their own set of issues. Shouldering the quirky mix of utter cluelessness and the premature maturity that teenage pregnancy brings, Juno keeps Mark and Vanessa in the loop about doctor appointments and the baby's health. And that leads to a deepening, sometimes awkward, relationship between this young mom and her baby's future parents – *Plugged In*.

## Discussion Guide

### Themes:

- Life is precious: Psalm 139:13-16
  - Relationships last when love is valued more than anything else: 1 Cor 13
  - Choices matter: Deuteronomy 30:11,15,16, 19,20
1. Juno's dad says, "I thought you were the kind of girl who knew when to say when," and Juno replies, "I don't know what kind of girl I am." How does keeping her baby affect Juno's sense of her own identity? How do her choices shape her? How do you think things would have turned out for her if she *hadn't* kept the baby?
  2. Juno's stepmother says, "Someone's going to get a special blessing from Jesus in this garbage dump of a situation." In what way is the baby a blessing? Who is blessed by the baby? Juno? Vanessa? Mark? Juno's father and stepmother? Are pregnancies ever bad? Are unwanted pregnancies ever good? How can good come out of possibly bad situations like this? (Genesis 45:4-8; Romans 8:28.)
  3. What does the film say about pregnancy and abortion? Does it neatly fit into a "pro-life" or "pro-choice" category? Why do you think the film deals with the subject the way it does? What difference does it make that babies have "fingernails"?
  4. What does the film say about relationships, marriage and divorce? Note how Juno discusses her birth mother in the opening voiceover. Note also how Juno wishes it were possible for relationships to last forever. Is she naïve? Is she tapping into a certain truth? Why don't some relationships last? What should people do when they don't?

5. Why does Mark feel stifled? What do you think he is afraid of? Are he and Vanessa on the same page? What kind of future do you see for them as a couple and as parents?
6. What does the film say about the current attitude toward sex among teenagers? If everyone is doing it, then why does Juno cringe at the term "sexually active", or at the way adults try to get kids to use condoms, etc.? Is this portrayal accurate?
7. One reviewer said, "For teens . . . who are already swimming in the culture, *Juno* will only reinforce the complete lack of a moral compass." Do you agree?
8. Do you agree with one reviewer's statement: "Life is life, and deserves to be nurtured, even—if not especially—when everything around it is broken."