



## Pop goes CATHOLICISM Resource Sheet

# The Back-up Plan

(PGC 3 of 3: The Best Thing)

### Media Information

**Rating:** **PG-13**  
**Year:** 2010  
**Director:** Alan Poul  
**Stars:** Jennifer Lopez  
Alex O'Loughlin

### Description

Timing: 52:40 - 54:26

*Movie Description:*  
Zoe decides to go with her 'back-up plan' & gets artificially inseminated... just before meeting the love of her life.

*Clip Description:*  
Just after finding out that Zoe is pregnant with twins, boyfriend Stan flees to a park where he talks with another dad who describes parenthood as "awful awful awful, then a moment so life-affirming, so magical, then awful awful awful"

### Related

#### Scripture:

Matthew 16:24-25  
Matthew 11:29-30

#### Catechism:

2228  
618

### Faith Connection

Whoever says being a Christian is easy because it's all about warm and fuzzy love doesn't understand real Christianity. To love is sometimes "awful awful awful" as the parent in the park tells Stan. To love is to pick up a cross and follow Jesus, to take a yolk upon the shoulders (see Related). And yet, to love is also to open oneself to those magical moments when life seems to mean so much more than the usual day to day, when we feel connected to each other and to God in that transcendent experience of unity that can only be called love. And just as in the parenting example of this movie clip, those moments make the yolk light, the burden easy. Jesus says that to save our life we must lose it. When I'm up most of the night with my baby but have to get up first thing to get the other kids to school, I feel as if I've lost my life. And yet, when my three year old daughter kisses my cheek and whispers "I love you Daddy," I am saved. Likewise, whenever we sacrifice ourselves for another out of love, experiencing the awful awful awful, we trust in the words of Jesus that we will be saved.

### Discussion Questions

1. Do you feel like being a Christian is a burden?
2. What do you think about the idea that loving can sometimes be "awful awful awful"?
3. Consider the last time you had an experience "so life-affirming, so magical." What was that like?
4. What's your reaction to Jesus' words: "whoever wants to save his life will lose it"?

