# Miss Foley

Health 8: USC4 Impact of Violence **A Girl Like Her**

**A Girl Like Her – Discussion Questions**

What do you think were the two biggest points of the

movie that you should think about?

1. **The pain and huge impact bullying has on the victim**
2. **“Hurt people, hurt people” = bullies**
3. Jessica felt there was no way out of the pain. Do you think that’s true? Have YOU ever felt like that was true?
4. Have you ever been in a situation that felt like it would last forever? Did it? How hard is it to wait for things to change when you’re in the middle of it and it’s painful?
5. Jessica felt like telling someone would have only made things worse. Could she have told someone? Who are the people who she maybe could have told? How might telling someone have helped? How might it have made things worse?
6. People around Jessica all blamed themselves for what she did, even though it wasn’t their fault. Have you ever blamed yourself for something someone else did? Have you ever blamed someone else for something you did?
7. How did this movie make you feel about suicide?
8. Brian was Jess’s best friend and probably the only person who know about what was happening to Jessica. He wanted to tell someone, but she made him promise not to. What do you think Brian should have done? Do you always keep someone’s secrets or are there times you should tell someone else? Do you think that, if he had told someone sooner, things might have changed? How did they change after he told someone?

In the movie, Amy (the documentarian) tells Avery that hers is “the most important story” and she works hard to capture that story, to reveal who Avery really is and why she would hurt someone else like she does. She tells Avery, “I think you’re a very powerful young woman who people love and people follow… and underneath it you’re just a young woman who’s in a lot of pain.” We see that pain. Avery has a difficult home life and friends who don’t really know her or care about her. Ironically, she feels even more alone than Jessica, only instead of hurting herself, she chose to hurt someone else.

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1. Avery felt like she was all alone, even though she was the most popular girl in school. Why did she feel alone? Do you sometimes feel alone even if you’re surrounded by friends? Amy felt like Avery’s story was the most important story. Why might that be?
2. Did seeing Avery’s home life make you feel and think differently about her? Have you ever felt differently about someone after you got to know more about their life?
3. When you see someone who is being mean and hurting other people, do you see someone who is mean, or someone who is hurting inside?
4. Are there any Avery’s in your life—people who are mean towards others? How might you be an Amy to that person? How might you listen to them, love them, help them feel like they aren’t being judged, but still stand for the truth around them? Do you think you might be more willing to do that after seeing this movie?
5. Avery wanted to apologize to Jessica, but it was too late and it looked like Jess might never come out of her coma. How did that make her feel? Did it make you think about making things right with people in your life while you still can? Is there anyone you need to ask to forgive you?
6. Avery said, “People paid me attention because of what I was doing and even though it wasn’t positive attention, it was attention. I didn’t care.” Have you ever received negative attention? Did you like it, even though it was negative, because it was attention?