

News Story Summary

In 2017, Jessica Swenson suggested to her husband, William, that the family take a trip around the world. William had just lost his job and his mother had also recently died. Jessica worked a flexible job as a photographer and they homeschooled their three children so travel was a possibility. They rented out their home in San Francisco to give themselves income while they traveled. The family set off on their trip with each person carrying just one backpack. They visited China, Bali, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and Morocco using points. In the spring of this year, they headed to London to begin their travels across the U.K. and Europe where they would house sit to cut costs. "We've really invested in our family this year, and we've really seen the fruits of that," says Jessica. "I also really just love being around my husband. And this year has allowed for us to spend lots of time together being a team as we travel and navigate through different countries." Reflecting on what she's learned and observed during their travels, Jessica pointed to gaining a global perspective, and seeing the universal values of family, persistence, and everyone needing a nap.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term "family traveling through Europe free".)

Focus Attention

To supplement the Focus Attention idea, share the news story above. Note that something triggered a change for the Swenson's – job loss and death of a family member – and the family made the big change to travel round the world. Then continue following the instructions under Guide, and lead the group to respond to the questions: *What are some occasions when you have made visible changes in the way you live? What triggers produced those changes?* (PSG, p. 91)

Challenge

To supplement the Summarize and Challenge ideas, remind the group of the story about the Swenson family who made the decision to take a round-the-world trip, a decision they say has improved their family life. Then continue leading the group, following the instructions under Discuss and Challenge.