On November 25, the day after Thanksgiving, more than 154 million people went shopping. According to reports, a large part of the estimated $3 billion spent on the day known as Black Friday came from people buying gifts for themselves. Men were said to have spent the most money on themselves because the Black Friday sales offered great deals on items such as expensive electronics. Since trying to snag Black Friday bargains has sometimes gotten ugly, there were posts online that offered advice to Black Friday shoppers. One post said, "If someone has been trampled, gently step over them to get the TV." To fight Black Friday selfishness, five years ago the Tuesday after Thanksgiving was designated as Giving Tuesday, a day for sharing with others. This year, Giving Tuesday was recognized in 98 countries and territories around the world, with people sharing gifts, money, and time with others. Over $168 million was contributed online.

# THE BEAT

## Think About It . . .

- How could special sales like Black Friday bring out selfishness in people?
- What does it mean to be selfish? unselfish?

**December 11, 2016**
**Lesson 2**

## Shopping Bags

Draw on the board the outlines of two large shopping bags. Label one bag "Selfish" and the other bag "Unselfish." Have students write things on the bags that represent being either selfish or being unselfish. When preteens are done, read the things that they came up with. SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word and see what Jesus has to say about living unselfishly.**

**Will you commit to living unselfishly for God?**

Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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