



### **Discuss**

Read the story together. Here are some questions to guide your discussion:

- 1. How would you describe what the father is like? What in the story shows you that?
- 2. What is surprising about the father's response to his sons, and what would you have expected instead?
- 3. The father represents God in the story. How is this picture of the Christian God similar to or different from who you imagine God to be?
- 4. What attracts you to knowing God in this way as one who is forgiving, compassionate, and loving?

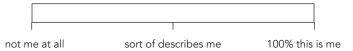
### **Activity: Spiritual Survey**

Exploring more about Jesus is a journey. Good preparation for any journey includes identifying a starting point; this will help you know how to engage and what questions to ask moving forward. Take a look at each of the categories below. Color in the rectangle based on how strongly you identify with each statement.

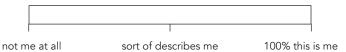
**TRUST** I try to value all people, but I usually don't trust Christians. I still feel a little skeptical about the whole thing.



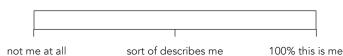
**CURIOUS** I love learning how others experience faith. I want to press into my curiosity about Jesus rather than dismiss my questions.



**OPEN** I'm open to trying something new. I want to experience God for myself.



**SEEKING** I'm searching for deeper meaning and wonder if it could be found in Jesus. I want to actively find answers to the questions I have about him.



**READY** I may still have questions, but I'm ready to know more about following Jesus with my whole life.



## **Next Steps**

Identify the one you relate to the most, and share why. What next step can you take or what questions do you have based on where you find yourself?

# **Closing Prayer**

If you are comfortable, here is a prayer you can say to close your time together:

### Dear God,

Thank you for the love and compassion you have for us. Would you help us experience that love. Show us and teach us how to know more about you. In Jesus' name, Amen.