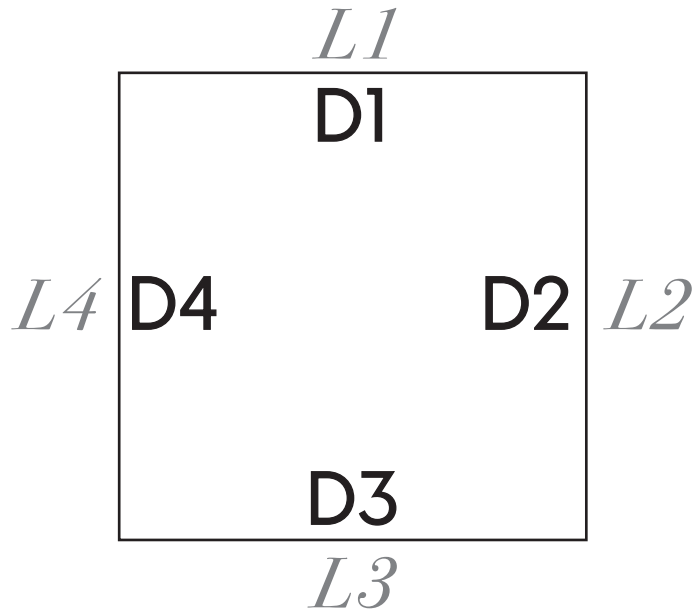


# PRIORITIES OF LIFE: *Square*

*“ In the Gospels, we see Jesus lead those he calls to follow him from a place of unconscious incompetence, through conscious incompetence and conscious competence, to unconscious competence. These are the stages we go through whenever we step out from our known experience of life into something unknown.”*



There are four, general phases of discipleship (D1-D4) and four, corresponding styles of leadership (L1-L4). For our first look at the square, we'll first dive in to the phases as a disciple of Jesus. In the Gospels, we see Jesus lead those he calls to follow him from a place of *unconscious incompetence*, through *conscious incompetence* and *conscious competence*, to *unconscious competence*. These are the stages we go through whenever we step out from our known experience of life into something unknown that God has called us into. We allow ourselves to be lead through each phase.

**D1:** At the stage of **unconscious incompetence**, we need to do what we are told: the leader is very directional, inspirational, and does not burden us with massive amounts of information. As disciples, this is the phase when the calling is clear, we're excited, but we don't know exactly what we're 'in for' as we are following with great faith.

**D2:** The stage of **conscious incompetence** is often the longest and most difficult phase. In this stage we need a great deal of encouragement and to be reminded of the vision regularly. This is the stage in which most people struggle with the desire to give up, but getting through it provides a great deal of confidence.

**D3:** At the stage of **conscious competence**, our confidence and ability is growing, and we are nearly ready to lead on our own. We've learned to apply what we learned in D1 and D3.

**D4:** At the stage of **unconscious competence**, what we've learned feels 'natural', though note that precisely because our competence is unconscious, we will find it hard to lead someone else unless we retrace our own steps, recalling to mind the earlier stages we had to pass through, and in particular the stage of conscious competence. At this point, we've grown and are ready to lead.

