

Welcome to the  
twenty-second week of  
*25 Weeks of Advent!*

*The stories of Advent all give us  
some insight as to the point and  
value of Jesus' life for us.*

This week, we hear the story of the  
angel appearing to Mary—the  
“stuff of dreams” some might say,  
even though Mary was wide  
awake!

Gabriel tells Mary,  
*“Mary, you are beautiful with God’s  
kind of beauty—the heart-beautiful  
kind of beauty that listens and  
sees and loves. You have nothing  
to fear—and everything to rejoice  
about! God has a gift for you—  
a gift for the whole world.  
You are going to have a baby—  
and you will name him Jesus.  
He will be God’s son.”*

And Mary said,  
“I am God’s servant;  
Let it be done as you say.”  
A resounding ‘yes’ —a hands open  
and willing, ready to receive from  
God, humble ‘yes’ to make a  
space for God’s son—right below  
Mary’s beautiful listening, seeing,  
loving heart.

Mary was willing to make room for  
Jesus. **Are you?**

## Week 22: Wide-Awake Dreams

**Read:** Luke 1:26—56

### “Mary’s Magnificent God”

Devotional by John Piper | from *Desiring God*  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/mary-s-magnificent-god>

Mary sees clearly a most remarkable thing about God: He is about to  
change the course of all human history; the most important three  
decades in all of time are about to begin.

And where is God? Occupying himself with two obscure, humble  
women — one old and barren (Elizabeth), one young and a virgin  
(Mary). And Mary is so moved by this vision of God, the lover of the  
lowly, that she breaks out in song — a song that has come to be  
known as “The Magnificat.”

Mary and Elizabeth are wonderful heroines in Luke’s account. He  
loves the faith of these women. The thing that impresses him most,  
it appears, and the thing he wants to impress on Theophilus, his  
noble reader of his Gospel, is the lowliness and cheerful humility of  
Elizabeth and Mary as they submit to their magnificent God.

Elizabeth says (Luke 1:43),  
“And why is this granted to  
me that the mother of my  
Lord should come to me?”  
And Mary says (Luke 1:48),  
“He has looked on the  
humble estate of his  
servant.”

The only people whose soul  
can truly magnify the Lord  
are people like Elizabeth and  
Mary — people who  
acknowledge their lowly  
estate and are overwhelmed  
by the condescension of the  
magnificent God.

