Table Talk in 20 minutes, 1945

Two stories and the close, for a short slot. Starters are options: pick one, rephrase it, or use your own.

Ready	Papers open to the front page (one paper and the seat cards at a shared table). Take-home cards. TV on slide 1 of the Table Talk slides; you'll use 1, 2, 5 and 6.
0 to 2	**Welcome** TV: slide 1, 1945
Say	*"Welcome to Courier Club. Today the paper is 1945. Let's open it to the front page."*
2 to 10	**Japan signs on the Missouri** front page
TV	Slide 2, Japan signs.
Say	*"The six-year world war ended this morning on the deck of an American battleship."*
Starters	Who in your family or among your friends was part of the war, overseas or at home? Where was your family living in 1945? What did that town do when the news came? What stories about the end of the war got told at your table, year after year? The ceremony took 23 minutes. Does that sound short or long to you?
Facts	Page 2: the ceremony began just after 9 o'clock and lasted 23 minutes. MacArthur signed with six pens. Page 2: crowds opposite the White House called *"We want Harry."* The President came out three times.
Shared table	Read each line twice. Offer a first answer: a brother, a neighbor? A nod counts; say it back.

Over for the nylons and the close.

10 to 18 — **Thousands in line for nylons** — Life & Arts, page 4

TV — Slide 5, Nylons. Skip 3 and 4.

Say — *"The nylon stocking is back from the war."*

Starters — What did your family do without? What came back first?

Which store in your town would have had the line? Who would have been in it?

What was getting dressed up for in your house: church, a dance, Saturday night?

Facts — The first nylons, in 1940: about 4,000,000 pairs in a day, a little over a dollar a pair.

By 1942 nylon had gone to war: parachutes, tire cords, ropes.

18 to 20 — **The close** — TV: slide 6, Take your card home

Hands — *"Which of today's stories goes on our front page?"*

Hand out — A take-home card each. Say the next date. **Stop at 20.**

If it goes another way

Quiet room. Count to ten, then read a fact or tell a short one of your own. Never go round the table.

A heavy turn. Listen. Don't ask for more or give an opinion. Go to the nylons.

A lifted hand, a look away, a turned chair. Turn the page and say nothing about it. Passing the paper, holding the picture and listening are all taking part.

Someone turns to Jackie Robinson. Give it two minutes: the first Black player signed into organized baseball in the modern era. The paper: *"Baseball's color line faces its test."*

Afterward, in the hub. A tap when someone joins in, and one per hand at the close. After the room clears, not before: who came, by name, and anything worth keeping in the person's own words.