Table Talk, 1945

6 to 8 at one table, 25 minutes, two stories. Read each line twice. Starters are options: pick one, rephrase it, or use your own.

Ready — One paper, open to the front page. Both seat cards at each place, front-page card on top. Take-home cards. TV on slide 1. Hub open.

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."* Sit at the table with them. Point to the card in front of each person.

2 to 12 **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."* Then once more, slower.

Starters

- Who in your family was part of the war? Offer one: a brother, a neighbor?
- Where was your family living then: in town or out in the country?
- When the news came, was it bells, car horns or the radio?
- 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.
- Page 2: crowds opposite the White House called *"We want Harry."* The President came out three times.

Then — A nod or one word counts. Say it back, *"A brother,"* and wait. If a story starts, let it run.

12 to 22 **Thousands in line for nylons** Life & Arts, page 4

TV	Slide 5, Nylons. Skip 3 and 4. Nylons card on top at each seat.
Say	*"The nylon stocking is back from the war."* Then once more.
Starters	What did your family do without: stockings, butter, sugar?
	Dressed up for church or for a dance: which?
	A line around the block for stockings: stand in it?
	Nylon went into parachutes and ropes. Which surprises you?
Facts	The first nylons, in 1940: a little over a dollar a pair.
	Same page: milk, delivered, 15.6 cents a quart.

22 to 25 **The close** TV: slide 6, Take your card home

Hands	*"Which of today's stories goes on our front page?"* A hand left down is an answer.
Hand out	A take-home card each. Say the next date. **Stop at 25.**

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.

Late arrival. A chair, a paper open to the page, a nod. No recap.

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.