Monthly Family Meeting (from theparentchallenge.com)

Meeting guidelines:

1. The meeting should be scheduled on a set day each month at a set time and put on everyone's calendar. (e.g., the 1st Sunday of each month at 7pm). If that day has to be missed for an important reason, the first available day possible should be substituted.
2. If the family is having major issues then you may need to have the meeting more frequently than once a month (once a week or twice a month).
3. Turn your cell phones on silent and minimize all other distractions.
4. Keep the conversation friendly, listening to understand. Don't curse, name call, interrupt, or blame another person, only state the way actions make you feel and the reason if there's an issue. Father (mother if father not present) must maintain order and respectful treatment among family members.
5. To limit overtalking others, use an hourglass to indicate the remaining time and let whoever has the floor to talk hold the hour glass.
6. Take notes on decisions made, issues that need to be addressed, questions that need answers, etc. Make sure all outstanding items from the meeting are followed up on to teach execution.
7. If attention becomes a problem, you can try healthy snacks during the meeting like popcorn or fruit.

What to bring to meeting:

1. Parents should bring the household mission statement.
2. Parents should inspect rooms or any areas the kids are responsible for.
3. Kids should bring their current grade report in each class.

Meeting Format (Try to limit length to 45 mins max):

I. **Pray:** Start the meeting with prayer while holding hands if you believe in the power of prayer (volunteer or the last person that arrived).

II. **Mission:** Go over the household mission statement in unison (if long, only read the most important parts to remember).
   A. See who can remember key parts (without looking).
   B. Ask for examples of principles or values demonstrated since the last meeting.

III. **Recognition:** Acknowledge any achievements by a family member since the last meeting. Open the floor for others to mention any you might not remember or know about.

IV. **Review:** Go over the minutes from the last meeting following up on actions that needed to be taken and reviewing decisions made.

V. **Agenda:** Present agenda items for this meeting that will be covered in step VII and ask if there are additions to the agenda that need to be discussed. If agenda items will run the meeting over time, add the additional items to the next meeting's agenda.

VI. **Rules:** Go over meeting guidelines (#3-5) before discussing any issues.

VII. **Discuss:** Go over agenda items ensuring the meeting guidelines are followed.

VIII. **Compliment:** Each person has to tell the person next to them a compliment, what they appreciate about them or call out something specific they did good (vary order if they sit in the same seats) as we go around the room.

IX. **Pray:** End the meeting with prayer while holding hands if you believe in the power of prayer (volunteer or pick someone). Be sure to pray over any issues mentioned during the meeting.

Agenda Ideas:

1. Start with grades and chore review, you decide which one goes first. Handle bad grades in private after the meeting. Recognize the good publicly and discipline the bad privately.
2. Vacations and holiday plans.
3. Any weddings, events or family happenings everyone needs to know about.
4. Great life lessons that happened since last meeting.
5. Work problems you want their help brainstorming on that they can practice problem solving with. If they come up with something good, reward them.
6. Any problems someone wants group thinking to help solve.