

Brit Milah

At OVS we are happy to celebrate your new son's birth through a ברית מילה/Brit Milah. Most people are more familiar with the terminology of a bris which is an Ashkenazic pronunciation of the word ברית/brit. Here at OVS we use the Sephardic and Israeli pronunciation, ברית מילה/Brit Milah.

זאת בריתי אשר תשמרו ביני וביניכם ובין ורעך אחריך המול לכם כל-זכר:

Such shall be the covenant between Me and you and your offspring to follow that you shall keep: every male among you shall be circumcised.

ונמלתם את בשר ערלתכם והיה לאות ברית ביני וביניכם:

You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

ובן-שמונת ימים ימול לכם כל-זכר לדורותיכם יליד בית ומקנת-כסף מכל בן-זכר אשר לא מוצרעה הוא:

And throughout the generations, every male among you shall be circumcised at the age of eight days. As for the homeborn slave and the one bought from an outsider who is not of your offspring,

המול ימול יליד בית ומקנת כסף והיתה בריתי בבשרכם לברית עולם:

they must be circumcised, homeborn and purchased alike. Thus shall My covenant be marked in your flesh as an everlasting pact.

ועל זכר אשר לא-ימול את-בשר ערלתו ונקרתה הנפש ההוא מעמיה את-בריתי הפר: {ס}

And if any male who is uncircumcised fails to circumcise the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from kin; he has broken My covenant."

(בראשית י"ז: י"ד)

אברהם/Abraham was commanded by God to circumcise himself and all of the members of his household. They performed these circumcisions regardless of age and established that moving forward the circumcision would be performed on the 8th day of life.

יצחק/Isaac, אברהם and שרה/Sarah's son was the first to be recorded for being circumcised on the 8th day and we have been doing this ever since.

Brit Milah is the physical way we welcome males into our community and it's the way we mark our covenant with God. The 8th day is observed regardless of if it happens on שבת/Shabbat. A ברית מילה does take place on שבת when the boy is born on the previous שבת. With that said, there are times when the ceremony could be delayed until Sunday because of inductions, c-sections or the health of the newborn.